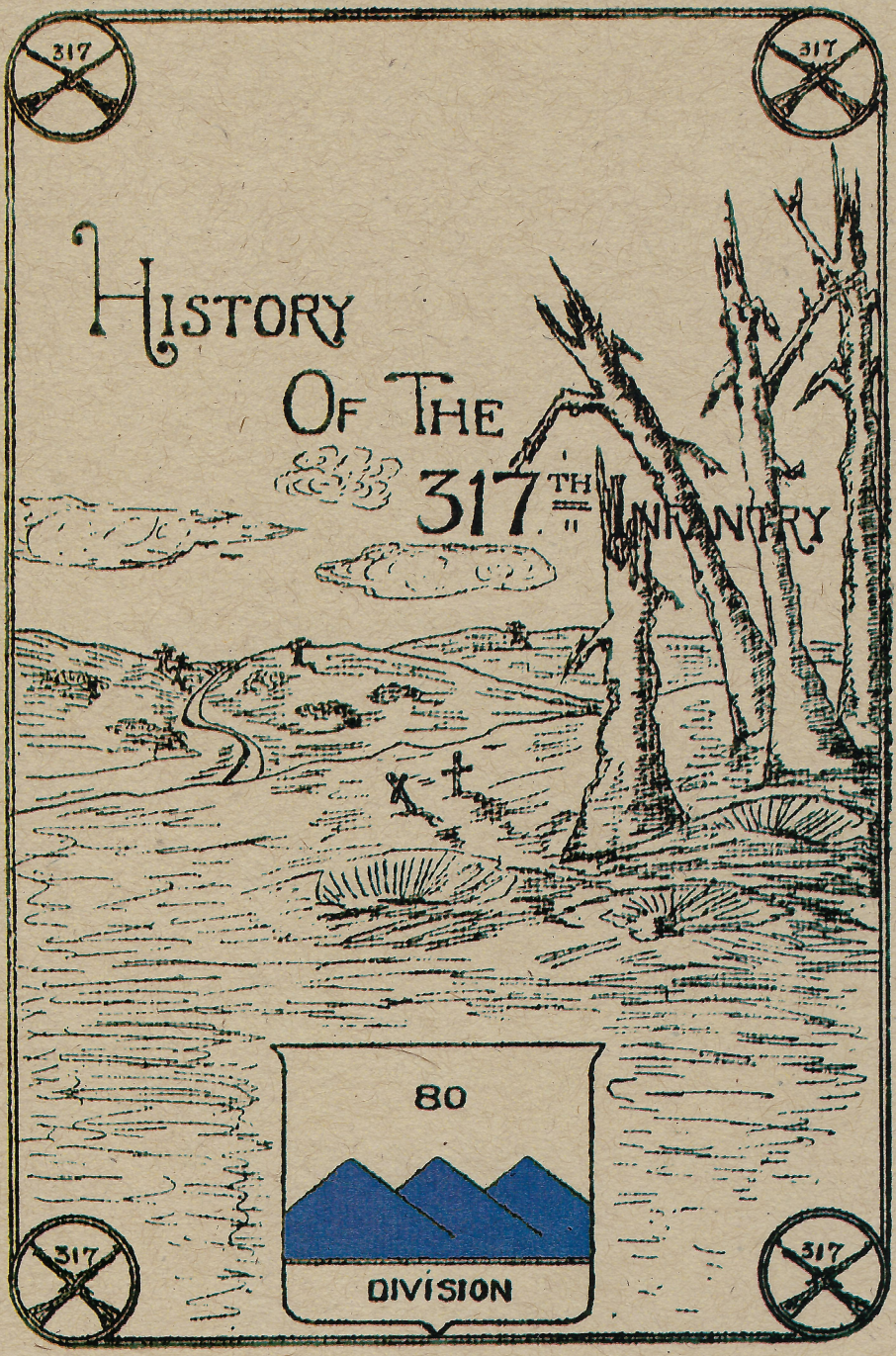
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History
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317TH Infantry
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DIVISION
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History

OF THE

317TH Infantry

EDLEY CRAIGHILL
1st LT and ADJT 2nd Bn
317TH INFANTRY.

PREFACE

The following pages are compiled from official records and personal observation. It will be borne in mind when offering criticisms that this deals with the entire regiment, and not with the various units as individuals. The regiment when first organized was composed entirely of Virginians which fact is worthy of note. It is as nearly an all American Regiment as any in the service. It has hard tasks to perform and has done them well, The personnel of the outfit has changed about as little from the time of its organization to the present date, as any organization in the army. This is accounted for by pratically all of our sick and wounded having returned to duty. This story is dedicated to the men of the Regiment who gave their lives and our Colonel, Charles Keller. U. S. A.

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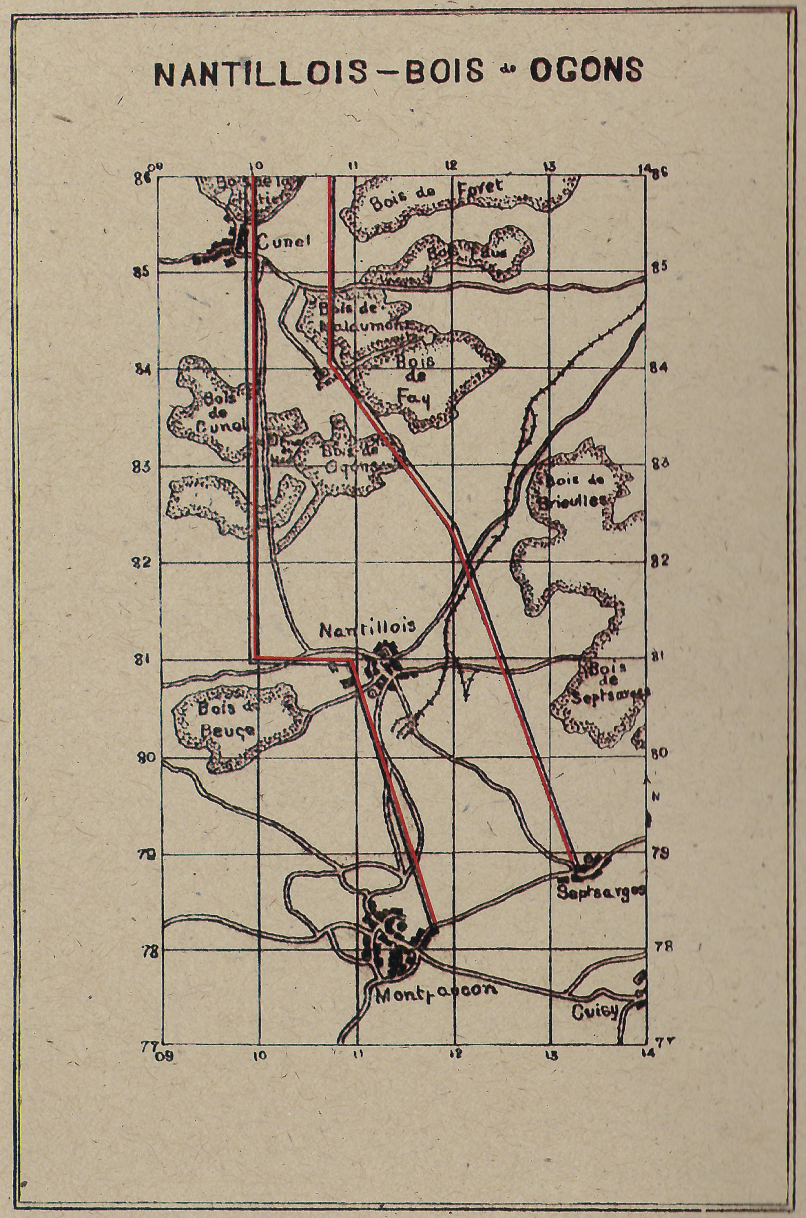
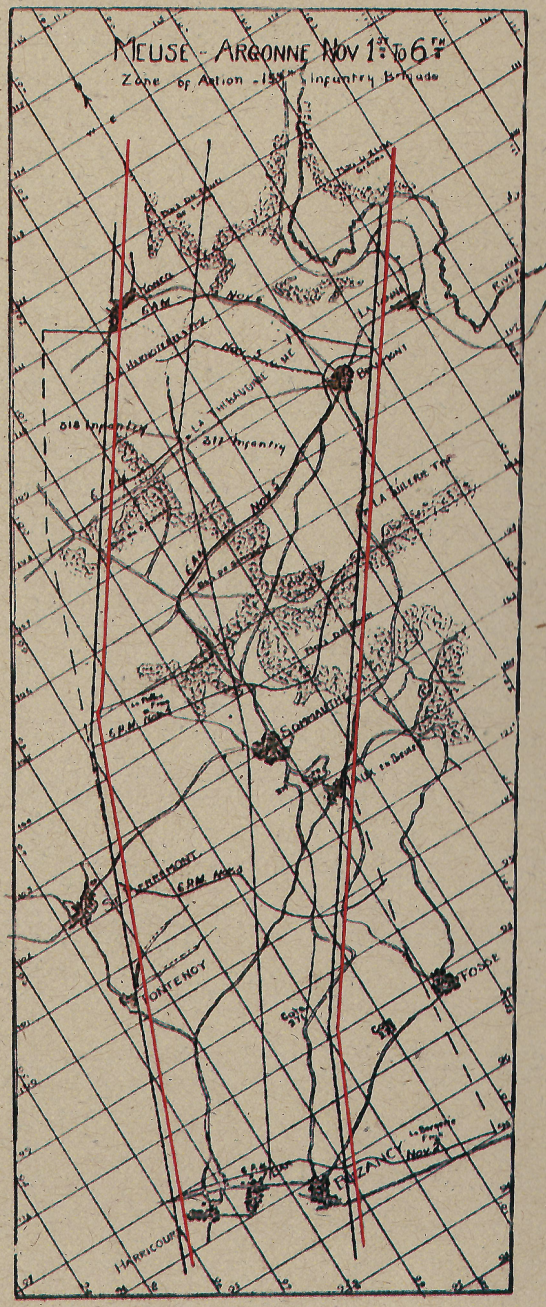
PLATE I



THIS MAP SHOWS THE TOTAL ADVANCE OCT. 4th TO 6th, IN THE BITTER FIGHT FOR THE BOIS DES OGONS.

PLATE II



THIS MAP SHOWS THE TOTAL ADVANCE FROM NOV. 1ST TO 6TH COVERING A DISTANCE OF 24 KILOMETERS OF WHICH THIS REGIMENT AS PART OF THE 159TH BRIGADE ADVANCED 19 KILOMETERS

PLATE III

ROSTER OF OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT

1st Lt. Clinton D. Ackerman, 738 E 22nd St., Patterson, N. J.
Major, Walker H. Adams, 238 Woodland Ave., Lynchburg, Va.
1st Lt. William R. Arrants, Athens, Term.
1st Lt. and Chaplain Andrew C. Aston, Panhandle, Texas.
Captain Thomas C. Barton, Winchester, Va.
1st Lt. David A. Barry, Jr., Hackensack, N. J.
2nd Lt. Charles H. Beckwith, 50 Carlton st., Newton, Mass.
1st Lt. Samuel M. Bemiss, c/o Richmond trust and Savings Co., Ridmond, Va.
1st Lt. Hiram W. Bennet, the Duponts Apts., Washington, D. C.
1st Lt. Frederick H. Beziat, Dakdale Ave. and Pimlico Rd, Baltimore, Md.
1st Lt. Frank B. Blanchard, Big Stone Gap, Va.
2nd Lt. Harry E. Blancy, Cincinatti, Ohio.
1st Lt. Douglass T. Bolling, Charlottesville, Va.
2nd Lt. Rodney T. Bonsall, Glenolden, Pa.
1st Lt. William H. Bowles, 412 Morris Ave., Elizabeth, N. J.
1st Lt. John W. Boyd, Planters National Bank, Richmond, Va,
Captain Oscar C. Brownlee, Laurence, Kans.
1st Lt. Colin F. Burch, Oakley, Md.
1st Lt. Kermeth M. Burns, 805 Hammilton Terrace, Baltimore, Md.
1st Lt. Reuben Burton, 806 Seminary Ave., Richmond, Va,
Captain Ollie M. Butler, 3 North st., N. W. Washington, D. C.
Captain Jesse S. Carter, c/o Mrs. Jesse Cress, Hillsboro, Ill.
1st Lt. Albert Cartun, 1545 N. 6th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
2nd Lt. John H. Clary, Church and Cherry sts., Curtis Bay, Md.
1st Lt. and Chaplain Milton L. Clémens, Greeneville, Tenn.
Major Lee Cohen, 1329 W. Jefferson St., Ft. Wayne, Ind.
1st Lt. Bernard P. Costello, 314 Pine st., Midland, Mich.
2nd Lt. Carson C. Cox, Thomasville, M. C.
1st Lt. Edley Craighill, 200 Woodland Ave., Lynchburg, Va.
1st Lt. John M. Curlee, Kirkwood, Mo.

1st Lt. Richard H. Darrell, Rockford, Ill.
Captain John H. Debaus, 117 twelfth st., S. E. Washington, D. C.
Captain Henry Le Roy Demarest, tenafly, N. J.
2nd Lt. Charles H. Dugro, Hotel Savoy, 59th St. and 5th Ave., New-York City, N. Y.
1st Lt. Talbott B. Dunn, 195 Highland Ave., Ridgewood, N. J.
1st Lt. Paul C. Edmunds, Jr., 111 Madison St., Lynchburg, Va.
1st Lt. Anson Eldred, 2 Waverly place, Milwankee, Wis.
1st Lt. Albert M. Eley, Blackwood, N. J.
2nd Lt. Emil M. Fabian, tampa, Fla.
1st Lt. Isaac H. Farmer, 301 Park Ave., Wilson, N. C.
1st Lt. Thomas W. Fennell, 630 Walnut st., Latrobe, Pa.
2nd Lt. Joseph P. Foley, 167 Madison st., Hortford, Conn.
1st Lt. Charles D. Foster, 1156 Duane st., Topeka, Kans.
2nd Lt. Charles Y. Fox, 2035 Spruce st., Philadelphia, Pa.
1st Lt. Irvin Frank, Box 79, Falls Church, Va.
1st Lt. Frederick S. Frantz, Lebanon, Pa.
Captain Leonard H. Fredericks, 213 Union st., Joliet, Ill.
2nd Lt. William Henry Frey, 901 Washington st., Petersburg, Va.
1st Lt. Purl W. Gage, 311 Main st., La Crosse, Wis.
1st Lt. Robert J. Garland, 6636 Loomis Boulevard, Chicago, Ill.
1st Lt. Thomas M. Garrett, Elkton, Md.
2nd Lt. Preston L. Geoghegan, Chase City, Va.
1st Lt. Paul T. Gerhardt, c/o Gerhardt and Sons, Conter and Main sts, Springfield, Ohio.
Major Powell Glass, Lynchburg, Va.
2nd Lt. William D. Godsey, Nickelsville, Va. R. F. D. 4.
2nd Lt. Winfield Greer, c/o W.-H. Cochran, 623 S 5th Ave., M. Vernon, N. Y.
2nd Lt. Charles F. Hackett, 226 W. Jackson st., Richmond, Va.
1st Lt. And Chaplain Benjamin D. Hanscom, 3407, W 3rd St., Duluth, Minn.
1st Lt. Horace Harding, c/o War Dept, Washington, D. C.
Major John D. Harrison, Norristown, Pa.
1st Lt. Carroll S. Harvey, 21 Livermore Rd. Wellesley Hills, Mass.
1st Lt. Lewis S. Hawley, c/o Mrs. J.-H. Darragh, 37 Elizabeth Apts., Chattanooga, Tenn.
2nd Lt. William G. Helfrich, Catonsville, Md.
2nd Lt. Leonard Hodgetts, 19 Pinchurst Ave., New-York City, N. Y.
1st Lt. Donald Hoffman, 419 Hawthorne Rd., Roland Park, Md.
1st Lt. Frank O. Hood, Pittsburg, Pa.
Brigadier General George H. Jamerson, 1801 K St., Washington, D. C.
Major John W. James, Lynchburg, Va.
1st Lt. Alonzo Keadle, 217 W 4th Ave., Williamson, W. Va.
Colonel Charles Keller, 410 Madison st., San Antonio, Texas.

1st Lt. Herman C. Kramer, New Milford, N. J.
1st Lt. Marion H. Landing, Marion, Somerset Co., Md.
Captain P. Blair Lee, Silver Spring, Md.
1st Lt. Alexander R. Lockie, 4325 Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Y. M. C. A. Secretary W.-J. Mc Glaughlin, Lima, Ohio.
1st Lt. James E. Mc Cann, c/o Missouri Athletic Ass'n., St. Louis, Mo.
Captain Alexander M. Macaulay, Great Falls, Mont.
1st Lt. Christian G. Maier, 3210 Arthinton St, Chicago, Ill.
Captain Elmer W. Marsh, c/o Mrs. Francis L. Marsh, Moriarty, N. Mex.
2dd Lt. Frank Aubrey Massie, Jr., 1st St., Charlottesville, Va.
1st Lt. Edward G. Maxwell, 412 Mowbrey Arch, Norfolk, Va.
2nd Lt. Alouzo Monday, Ewing, Va.
2nd Lt. Edgar T. Morgan, 42 Bigelow St., South Manchester, Conn.
1st Lt. Grover C. Mosley, 433 Athens St., Winder, Ga,
Captain William C. Murphy, 639 North Ave., Scranton, Pa.
2nd Lt. Dandridge Murrill, 400 Harrison St., Lynchburg, Va.
1st Lt. Douglass W. Neff, University, Va.
2nd Lt. James A. Newton, Graham, Va.
1st Lt. Charles B. Nicholas, 930 S 55th St., Philadelphia, PA.
2nd Lt. Brackin Osburn, Lebanon, Tenn.
1st Lt. Wilbur F. Paris, Green Castle, Ind.
2nd Lt. Harry E. Pelby, Farrell, Pa.
Major Abe R. Peterson, 1401 Gregory St., Chicago, Ill.
1st Lt. Reid M. Pierce, Culpepper, Va.
Captain J.-K. Powell, 221 Durham, Ave., Metuchen, N. J.
2nd Lt. James S. Read, 906 Chorokee St., Marietta, Ga.
1st Lt. Joseph L. Rhodes, Ft. Myer, Va.
Captain John H. Rice, Cautonsville, Md.
Captain John Dwight G. Rivers, Farmville, Va.
Captain Samuel A. Rulon, Phoenixville, Pa.
Major George O. O. Sautee, Gressona, Pa.
2nd Lt. Ernest C. Savage, East Gravers Lane, Chestnut Hill, Pa.
2nd Lt. Arthur H. Scaggs, Lexington, Ky., R. F. D. 2.
1st Lt. Charles J. Schatz, 120 N. Main St., Wheaton, Ill.
Captain Robert C. Schmertz, 205 2nd St., Jeannette, Pa.
1st Lt. Robert N. Scobey, 859 Bradfor Ave., Mashville, Tenn.
1st Lt. Harry R. Seelinger, Norfolk, Va.
Captain Arthur F. Shaw, 1844 Jefferson Ave., S. E. Grand Rapids, Mich.
Captain Woodworth H. Sibley, 750 Hinman Ave., Evans-ton, Ill.
2nd Lt. Robert J. Stewart, Cheltenhardt, Mont. Co., Pa.
1st Lt. Frank Swihart, c/o Power and Light Co., Warsaw, Ind.
Captain Thomas G. Terry, 1301 11th St., Lynchburg, Va.
1st Lt. Maurice G. Thomas, Malcolm St. W. Philadelphia, Pa.

2nd Lt. Joseph P. Tracy, 72 W. North St., Ilion, N. Y.
2nd Lt. William S. Walker, 705 Beuna Ave., Chicago, Ill.
2nd Lt. John L. Webb, 1248 Overton Park Ave., Memphis, Tenn.
2nd Lt. Tunis B. Williams, 401 Ormand St., Atlanta, Ga.
Captain William L. Wilmoth, Denison, Kans.
2nd Lt. Joseph B. Withers, 616 Washington St., Lynchburg, Virginia.

CHAPTER I

ORGANIZATION OF THE REGIMENT

It was after the completion of the first officer Training Camp at Fort Myer, Virginia, and all the young graduates had been given fifteen days leave at home for the first time since their training began, that they fully realized the great task before them. This task was to train and educate in a military sense, the rawest bunch of men, as far as military was concerned, ever gotten together.

On the morning of August 27, 1917, the greater part of these officers reported for duty all anxious and willing to begin their work. Division Headquarters was located in the big white house situated rather prettily on the most prominent elevation in the camp, and extending far away on both sides in the shape of a great horse shoe were the barracks built to accomodate some thirty thousand men. The buildings were not completed and the camp was as yet in its infancy, but the stupendous greatness of it all was inspiring to say the least. The United States had declared war in April and all over the country camps of prodigous size had sprung up and were rapidly coming to life. It was a marvelous undertaking and showed the earnestness of our designs. The grounds about the place were sadly in need of policing, great piles of rubbish were to be seen at every turn, and even the corn left standing in the fields had not been shocked; so sudden was the transformation of the surroundings. This was a choice site for such a camp, spacious drill fields were plentiful and there was no end of ground suitable for manœuver.

The Norfolk and Western Railroad had extended their track up into the heart of the great cantonment, and the doubled tracked electric railway connecting Petersburg,

Camp Lee and Hopewell was speedily nearing completion. Concrete roads had been started on the system established by Engineers, which would in time eliminate the question of congested traffic. The soil was especially suited for the outdoor exercises all of the year round, which in turn enhanced the value as a training center more than fifty per cent. Timber was plentiful too, giving the Engineers the necessary material to work with in the latter stage of our training, and taking it as a whole it was certainly an ideal location.

The assignments to regiments was made and it was my good fortune to be assigned to the 317th Infantry. The period from August 27 to September 5, 1917, was spent in getting barracks and grounds about the place in fit shape to receive the first draft. On the morning of September 5th, an officers conference was called and the fact was revealed to us that we might expect the first contingent in that night, and to have a hot meal and bunks all prepared in readiness for their reception. In most cases for the lack of men the officers themselves carried in the bunks, placed them in the barracks and filled the ticks with straw, so that these new men lots, of them leaving home for the first time might feel that some one was looking out for their interest. Such was the spirit of this new army.

The first three companies formed were « A », « E » and « I », each being assigned one hundred fifty men and the regiment's quota of officers being equally divided and attached to these three companies, for the purpose of hurrying the instructions. Our Colonel was a great organizer and had the ability and knack of getting the most out of this officers with the least grumbling. There was nothing too hard to do for him and his greetings no matter where he met you, were always of a pure Virginian style. The organization of the regiment looks easy from the outsiders' standpoint or to one who doesn't understand the inside workings of the army. The immense amount of paper work is a job in itself and with the various army forms and customs unfamiliar to an outsider, the thing as a whole would seem out of proportion. Aside from the paper work and the numerous other details to be performed, cooking schools, non-commissioned officers' schools and

schools for everything under the sun had to be established. Then came the training of the men and it was most essential that they be given the best start in this new game they were about to undertake possible for human beings to give them. These three companies were whipped into comparatively good shape in a very short time, and the reason for this was that the officers were well trained themselves and especially fitted for their work.

On September 22, 1917, the second contingent arrived filling up the remaining companies of the regiment to the strength of one hundred and fifty. The organization o fthe latter was a much harder task than that of the first, on account of the scarcity of officers which came about by many of them being placed on special duty in the mustering office. The mustering in of the regiment was also an immense job and it was ably handled by our Lieutenant Colonel who was in charge, directed and systematized the office force in such a way that all possible speed was maintained throughout the period of mustering. It was agony to lots of these men to be run through this mustering office for there they got their first conception of military discipline. The Colonel put the fear of God in their hearts the very first words he spoke to them, but it was for their good that this stern discipline had to be had and the men fully realized and appreciated later what it meant. The regimental exchange at this juncture had to be organized and started and in an incredibly short time dividends were accumulating and the place was thronged with soldiers during off hours. They would go there hot and thirsty from drill to get ice cream and pop, spending the little change they might have saved to satisfy their unbounded thirst. Our men were now beginning to walk like soldiers and look like soldiers and were the pride and joy of their officers.

On October 7, 1917, the third contingent came in, which brought the strength of the companies up to practically speaking two hundred and twenty; and by this time the first men felt as though they were veterans and looked upon the new comers as green horn rookies. On October the 11th; Company « A » was chosen by competitive drill to form a part of a pro-

visional battalion representing the division at the Richmond State Fair. The battalion was reviewed by Governor Henry C. Stuart of Virginia, and afterwards gave an exhibition drill at the fair grounds. The appearance presented by this battalion was splendid and many favorable comments were received by reason of their good work. As time sped on the training progressed most favorably and it was a marvel to see how regular hours and substantial well prepared army food agreed with the men, and brought them out. Some came bent and old looking while others had no color in their faces, but even this early in the game the splendid training was beginning to exert itself, and the wonderful improvement in the men was a source of real joy and pleasure. All soldiers know the first steps of military training, but for the benefit of any possible readers other than those of military education; here is a brief synopsis of the training schedule outlined for our new army at that time.

First of all the men had to be taught the school of the soldier, and in this is combined many new and wonderful meanings to a raw recruit. The position of a soldier at attention, the salute or salutation known to all military men, and then the facings which seem so intricate and incomprehensible to one who had never tried it before. It was surprising to say the least how quickly most of them caught on and adapted themselves to these new movements of the body, that most of them had never dreamed could be so interesting and really fascinating. Then the squad formation and the different movements known in the school of the squad. This was almost more than the men could stand, but by constant and untiring labor of both their officers and themselves they soon learned the ins and outs of the squad and were ready for bigger things namely the school of the company. The favorable results obtained up to this juncture in the training had been most pleasing and satisfying to all concerned, and now that the progress was so favorable, it was time for every officer and man to re-double his efforts and they fell to with a willingness rarely experienced before in the army and the succeeding days brought forth their fruit. At this stage of the training it was all important that the fine points of the drill be gone

into thoroughly, and it took many weeks and months of constant drill day by day to make each company a machine that would not falter at the critical moment.

The new extended order gotten from the foreign armies was almost as new to most of the officers as it was to the men, but by studying and going to school these new formations were mastered and the companies became efficient. It is hardly worth while going into the mechanism of these new drills because they are all more or less based on our old Infantry Drill Regulations, and the narrations to follow will in all probability prove more interesting. Parades and battalion drills were soon added to the present schedule and these ceremonies never failed to put the men on their metal for there was a keen sense of competition that prevailed throughout the regiment. As a rule the gayer set of Petersburg, Hopewell and City Point turned out to attend regimental parades, much to the pleasure of the men, for somehow a soldier on parade holds his head a little higher and his step quickens to the mellow strains of a good band. This regiment has always in my opinion had the best band in the division and on more than one occasion put new life into the tired foot-weary men.

Entertainment in abundance was provided for the men. Each regiment having a Y. M. C. A. centrally located in its area, at which every night great crowds would gather to enjoy a moving picture or musical numbers of various kinds. In addition to all these attractions there was established a « Hostess House » built by the government and operated by the good people of Petersburg. Here the men could bring their sweethearts and wives, pouring out their gladness or sadness over a cup of tea without fear of being interrupted. The fall past on flitting wings and soon the deep snows of winter settled about the camp. It was nearing Christmas time and for the most part it was the first Christmas many of these gallant men had ever spent away from home. It is a fact worthy of note that one never heard grumbling or kicking about being kept in the army and with very few exceptions there was a cheerfulness that prevailed which has never been surpassed in any army of to-day. Christmas came and

was gone, but the deep snows continued which made the carrying out of the training program almost impossible. It was gotten around however, by the means of our large and spacious barracks, and indoor schedules were ressorted to on days too bad to work outside. The weather was very severe and rarely had Virginia ever seen a winter so hard. The sickness in camp and especially this regiment was very low considering the severity of the weather and the men being new to the mode of living. It is true that we had an epidemic of mumps and measles, but such was to be expected as most of the men came from high altitudes in the mountains of Virginia and had not become immuned to these common diseases. As the days went by a feeling of spring began to creep into nature and into the men also, and the snows melted off the drill field. April was at hand with its rain and sunshine and the work outside was again resumed.

The nature of the training now took on an aspect of real war, lines of trenches for several miles were dug and occupied under all sorts of conditions. Preliminary rifle practice, sighting and aiming drills, and actual shooting on the new and magnificent range just constructed between Hopewell and Camp Lee absored the greater part of the time. The work on the range always commenced at daylight and the firing never ceased until dark. The men proved themselves to be excellent shots and the scores in most cases were exceptionally high for men who had never handled the army rifle before. There is a great difference in shooting an army rifle and a ordinary Winchester rifle, or the general type of guns our people are accustomed to use. Many dark chilled mornings during the early spring these gallant troops marched off to the target range with noon day meal in combat pack; not to return until long after darkness had shrouded the camp.

Some time during this month the Secretary of War made a trip to Camp Lee and the Eightieth Division, and the division passed in review. There were many thousand spectators present showing the heartfelt pride and interest that the people as a whole had for their meritorious representatives. The appearance the troops made was more than magnificent, and to think that these men had only started their training a

few month previous it was wonderful and brought forth words of commendation and praise from the audience. They must have looked as though it had been their life time work and their soldierly bearing showed marked efficiency. This ceremony took place late in April and it seemed a comparatively short time till rumors were floating around about our departure overseas.

The Secretary of War had evidently been well pleased with the fitness and efficiency of the entire division for the reports sent in were of a high and commendable character. Then came inklings in the form of bulletins about our departure for France, and the checking up of property and equipping every man with full equipment came to pass after many long nights of untiring work. This work was extremely tedious and required the full co-operation of both officers and men. The drill schedules had to be continued giving little opportunity during the day for any work in this connection.

It was about the first of May 1918 when the 159th Brigade composed of the 317th and 318th Infantry; was requested to parade in Petersburg. This parade will always be a memorable event in the annals of Petersburg and the state of Virginia, for it was known as a farewell parade of the 159th Virginia Brigade. Evidently the people didn't fully realize at the time that this Brigade was marching for the last time through the streets of Petersburg before its departure overseas. The 317th led on this occasion and its elegant band did itself proud as it has done many times since. The men were in heavy marching order, full packs with blouses on, and the hot May sun shone down full in their faces. Although the day was intensely hot no one dreamed of falling out because such a thing was a disgrace in this regiment, and as for a man turning his head in ranks it was an unpardonable crime. There was very little demonstration on the part of the people although the streets were packed. They must have been so impressed with the spectacle that their feelings refused to exert themselves, but the next day all the papers explained the lack of demonstration in terms very vivid stating; that the hearts of the people were too full for utterance caused by the splendid and impressive appearance the troops had

made. They certainly made an elegant showing and deserved all the praise that was showered upon them. Never did the rigid lines break; and their heads were high in the air while the steady tramp of many thousand feet echoed along the old and winding streets of Petersburg, where fifty years before many of their grandfathers had marched along the same streets tattered and torn, led by their gallant and noble leader, Robert E. Lee.

The rest of May up till the 25th was spent in rehearsing and going over what the men had learned since their arrival in camp. The schedules now called for an unlimited amount of night work, trench digging, close order drill, range work and everything that was ever written in a military world. One could write on and on; about the training and equipping of a regiment in its infancy but this brings us down to the day of departure for oversea duty with the American Expeditionary Forces, where there were many sore tests of loyalty and devotion to duty, all of which now have been undergone and the men proven.

CHAPTER II

EMBARKATION AND JOURNEY OVERSEAS

The dawn of May 25th, 1918, was the beginning of a new erra in the lives of the men of this regiment. The day burst forth in all its glory with the beautiful sunshine beaming down upon us as if we were a chosen people, and as a matter of fact we were a chosen people, for we had been designated by the most high God to do a work and fulfill a promise that no other people could fulfill. Mr. Wilson had given his word that every effort in money and material stored away in this great and glorious country of ours would be thrown into the balance against the « Hun » without any limitations or restrictions. Our soldiers were at the present time flowing across the Atlantic in a steady stream, at the rate of a little over two hundred thousand a month, and now it had come our turn to swell the human tide flowing with mighty strides, gathering ever increasing momentum as the days flew by, to make the world a fit place to live in as was laid down by our noble President.

The morning passed rapidly with its usual routine work and at twelve noon officers' call was sounded and a thrill vibrated through our bodies, till it touched our very souls. Somehow that bugle told us what was in the wind, and we knew by instinct that the orders had come for our departure to a foreign land. The conference lasted some thirty minutes and we were given instructions as to the time of leaving. Everything was in a bustle, but not confusion, when the companies were told of the orders and you could see on their sun tanned faces not an expression of sadness, but one of stern and resolute purpose. These sterling mountaniers of Virginia had become embodied with the strong affection and pride

in their state and country that only a soldier can feel. They were not down hearted nor depressed, but simply the stolid test of manhood was tingling through their veins. Every one realized fully the journey they were about to embark upon, and they wanted to see « Old Glory » with its gorgeous stars and stripes pushed far across the notorious Rhine; carrying the war into the very heart of the land occupied by the black hearted « Hun ».

At two fifteen the same evening the bugle sounded assembly and when the clock registered two twenty-five the column moved out. There were dear friends and relatives of those who marched away waving a last farewell to ones they loved so much, for they knew as well as the men that many of them would never return. Far be it from a soldier to show his feelings under such conditions for their hearts were throbbing with the great pride which they had in their organization. As the long column wound its way across the grey parade ground and out through the lower end of camp, it must have made a profound impression on the spectators present, for the boys were marching away not to return until it was over « Over There ». No bands were gaily playing nor colors flying, just a long line of khaki bobbing up and down harmoniously blending with the unpainted pine buildings and the grey sandy soil of the parade ground.

The Depot Brigade was situated in the east end of camp and our line of march took us by their quarters. The men of this brigade spoke words of encouragement and cheered us on our way. The head of the column on reaching the Petersburg - Hopewell road turned sharply to the right, and now the regiment could be seen strung out in column of squads for its full length. A halt was given just as we reached the road that turned off to our beloved rifle range and the men were allowed to fall out for fifteen minutes. They laid in the grass by the wayside: relieving their sturdy bodies of the heavy burden they were carrying. The evening sun beat down upon us with an intensity rarely experienced in that latitude and the perspiration was streaming from all of our faces and not even a gentle breeze was stirring to soften the unscrupulous intensity of the heat. The march was res-

umed and the steady tramp of many thousand feet could be heard revibrating from the concrete road revealing to the casual onlooker a picture : that had not been seen in that section since 1865. Neither officers or men were allowed to drink any water, because with the intensity of the heat it would have been fatal to the command to have filled up on water at this stage of the march. This showed a marked test of discipline and well did the men reveal their high standard of training. The next halt brought us into the town of Hopewell and I can truly say that soldiers were never treated better than did the kind people of this little town treat these gallant young men. They had lemonade, coca cola, ice water, and lots of other refreshing drinks and these were dealt out to the men in most cases by fair young ladies. These attentions and favors rendered by the good people of Hopewell will always be a source of real joy and pleasure in the hearts of the men of this regiment.

The termination of this long and hard march was near at hand as the distance now to go was something less than a mile. On reaching the heights overlooking James River the column was reduced to column of twos, and the long lines filed down many flights of steps until they reached the water level. There were three small river steamers tied up at separate docks, each one to transport a battalion. The embarkation on these small boats was speedily and successfully carried out, and only a few minutes elapsed after the last man was aboard till they were loosed from their moorings, and the regiment was on the second stage of its trip overseas. These little river boats had never before carried such a cargo, nor so many of them, and they struggled manfully under their new burden, seemingly proud by the chug of their engines that they were doing their part in the big game. The men were more or less crowded but it was the best that could be done under the circumstances and again their training showed for there was no grumbling to speak of, but instead a really serious cheerfulness prevailed. As we got under way and looked back to the heights above the river; even in the semi-darkness we could see handkerchiefs waving and hear the faint cheers of the people on shore come floating

across the water which made cold chills run up and down our spines. It gave us that great feeling of confidence, instilling in our very souls, the feeling of pride and glory; necessary for the performance of the calling that issued from across the water.

The gorgeous tints of the early summer's twilight and the rose colored reflections on the smooth and placid waters of the James, brought sweet and cheerished memories of the dear folks left behind, and many a soldier down in his heart asked God to watch over and take care of his precious ones, keeping them in safety until his return. Cold lunches had been prepared for each man and they were eaten with a relish after which the men laid down to rest, or get a little sleep, if such a thing was possible. The little ships slid down the river very gracefully and smoothly and with the ringing of bells; and tooting of whistles we tied up at Lambert's Point between twelve and one o'clock.

The unloading was as speedy as the loading, and by four a. m. every man had been shown his bunk on the big ship that was to take us across. This ship was a splendid vessel the U. S. S. Mongolia, and it was making its first trip as a transport. She was large and spacious accomodating with ease our entire regiment. At eleven a. m. May 26th the small tugs steamed along-side, and in a very few minutes we could feel the big ship begin to move. We were being towed out into Hampton Roads and on reaching sufficient depth of water the tugs cut loose and the monster sea lion began to move more rapidly under her own steam.

The water was smooth and quiet but even had it been rough the size of this great ship would have defied the rolling breakers. The steady chug of her powerful engines drove us on past Old Point Comfort and the noted Fortress Monroe and now we were swinging well out into the wide Atlantic from the protecting wings of good Cape Henry and Cape Charles. The shadows of evening had not begun to fall when our ship dropped anchor some five miles out, waiting for darkness to shroud her deep in shadow and protect her from the weary « U » boat. Off to the right grey and silent; stood the North Carolina, black smoke curling from her stacks and her ter-

rets standing out clearly on the sky line. She was to be our escort for part of the way at least, and a feeling of confidence crept over the whole ship's company as we gazed upon her. She was of the old type; but plenty good for the work in hand and I dare say she would have given a good account of her fighting qualities had she been given the opportunity.

Once more we saw the sun set behind our cherished Virginia shores, and way out on the water we heard the soft sweet tone of a military band. It was a Marine band and a splendid one too, that motored out to us that last evening in home waters and they circled round and round our ship, playing old familiar strains that were pleasing to the ear. The boys cheered them and cheered them until darkness with its fantastic shadows dropped a blanket over all, and it was not long before the anchor was weighed and the steady chug of the good ship's engines told us we were once more on our way.

There must have been many aching hearts on the ship that night, but the morning dawned beautifully clear as the big red sun came up out of his watery bed. There was no land in sight and only the North Carolina with one small destroyer could be seen bobbing about on the waves as our only escort. The days past slowly in some respects, and yet the time was comparatively short until our landing in France. Feeding the men was a prodigious job and only after many hours and even days of hard work was it systematized in such a way as to insure the best results. The men took the situation in the proper way and again showed not only their training; but their rearing.

There was no question about it, they suffered untold hardships during this voyage, and yet their morale was always of a high character, never drifting from the magnificent standard that had been set months before. Too much praise can not be bestowed upon these gallant troops, for these tenacious fellows have deservedly won a mark of distinction as will be shown in the chapters to come. Plenty of amusement existed for the men in the way of boxing, pitching quarts and various other kinds of entertainment. The regimental band each evening would give a concert making their life happier by rendering our familiar tunes. On the whole as the men grew

more accustomed to the life on the ocean, things became more pleasant and hardly a thought was given the dreaded submarines.

There came a day however and the water was a little rougher than usual and for the first time during the voyage seasickness was experienced. It was a funny experience only to those who were not sick, and to those who were so unfortunate it was indescribable agony. Some men were sick for the rest of the journey, while others resumed their every day duties after a short siege of this common sea trouble. Abandon ship drills were gone through daily and on reaching the war zone officers and men were made to wear their life preservers night and day. Several times during one or two dark nights the alarm was given and all hands stood to the life boats, but only on one occasion did the alarm really mean something. This occasion was one morning early, when a different convoy crossed our path in front of us. It lasted only a few minutes and our good ship pulled through safely without so much as a scratch.

As the days went by and we plowed deeper and deeper into the war zone and the danger of submarines became greater and greater, the watch at night was doubled our own troops being used for this work. Our convoy totaled eleven ships and at present the escort had not been increased, but little fear had we of our most dreaded foe, because we had seen the excellent gunnery exhibition of our naval gunners at target practice. One morning when we gazed about us; the destroyer escort had been increased to eleven, and on the following morning the great convoy split, half of them going to Bordeaux and our half continuing on its way to Brest with a compliment of five destroyers. These little fellows cut capers about the big ships, in and out they would go; and seemed to cover the whole ocean. Due credit should be given these little men of war for their splendid and highly efficient work.

On the night of June seventh, we were told that the next morning the shores of France would be in sight, so of course everybody was more than curious to see exactly what France was going to look like, and the decks were crowded on the

morning of June eighth with men whose eyes were aching for a mere sight of land whether foreign or not. The harbor of Brest with its numerous breakwaters was our port of debarkation, and as we were steered safely into this beautiful harbor the men were cheering; and our band was playing some of our familiar airs. It was very impressive this harbor of Brest, having the appearance of being carved out of the limestone cliffs, and the beautiful blue waters of the Bay of Biscay lent a fitting tone to the general color scheme.

The city is built well upon the hills with some of its main thoroughfares extending down to the ship yards. Pretty little cottages dotted the landscape here and there with the grounds around them beautifully terraced. The voyage was now completed and we were once more to place our feet on land, after being on the water for thirteen long days and nights. There was a general feeling of thankfulness throughout the entire regiment for the safe arrival of our ship in port. The men gazed about with a keen interest, observing this new land that they had come so far to deliver from the black hearted race; residing across the Rhine.

Our ship dropped anchor and the big steel doors in her sides opened up to let its company disembark. Here again we were loaded on a small ferry boat and carried ashore, thereby effecting the landing. The companies were formed and the march was started to the rest camp located some four miles out of town. Through the streets of Brest, one of the Republic's most ancient cities we marched, with the little children following us step by step. They had learned to know the American soldier and it was not infrequent that you would hear their tiny voices counting the cadence one, two, three, four. The line of march wound in and out among the houses, for during the construction of this part of the town no streets existed except in the way of by-paths, or trails. So when it came time to build thoroughfares capable of admitting traffic they necessarily had to conform to the houses, thereby causing a great winding and twisting which would not have been the case had the streets been built first.

Great interest was shown by the troops in the picture-

squeness of the general surroundings, and until this day you may walk through the regimental area and hear remarks relating to points of interest encountered on the march that day. This march was a strenuous test on our soldiers' ability for endurance, as the grades were steep and the roads could have been better, but with the same old tenacity with which they never failed to show the column halted under the shadows of the great walls around Pontanezen Barracks, which Napoleon had erected more than a hundred years before, and there our regiment went into camp and spent its first night in France.

CHAPTER III

BREST — CALAIS — DOUDEAUVILLE AND VICINITY

The camp at Brest was under canvas, and the ground available was quite limited and inadequate at that time. The sanitary conditions you would term reasonably fair; because the troops made them so, otherwise it would most likely have been a dirty hole even to exist in. The surroundings as a whole were quite pleasing in a way, by reason that there were so many points of interest. Pontanezen Barracks with its great walls and ancient gates was a picture worthy of praise, and the old court yard; or parade groundswere points of manifested interest, because Napoleon during his great career had trained and equipped several armies in this identical old place. Little did he dream in those days of strife and toil, that in nineteen hundred eighteen an American army would be operating in Europe; using the buildings he had erected for the purpose of store rooms and the quartering of our troops.

It has been stated before that this camp at Brest was supposedly one for rest, but very little socalled rest did the troops get, for on the morning of ninth of June orders were issued for a practice march. It turned out to be a comparatively short one though and the men really enjoyed it after being on the water so long. The road was very pretty we marched along that morning with tall hedges growing alongside, and beautiful trees overhanging shading the hot June sun. The line of march took us through numerous small French villages and it was a curiosity to our troops then; as it always will be the mode of living of the French people.

The fields were in a high state of cultivation and the brilliantly toned crimson clover seemed to be the predom-

inating crop, waving with its fluffy tops bowing to the morning sun. The impression the different scenes created was of a very pleasing nature and the men seemed to be particularly struck with the neat and pretty little gardens, that were a part of each little home. We saw our first French train that morning and it caused a ripple of laughter to go simmering down the column, because it was so small and so insignificant looking, and seemed entirely incapable of carrying passengers. The high shriek of its tiny whistle made us think of our Christmas toys we had been accustomed to play with when we were children. On the return to camp at midday; dinner had been prepared and was ready to serve and the morning's exercise had given us all an appetite that probably would have caused embarrasment in the environments of gentle society.

During the afternoon instructions were given making it necessary for officers' bedding rolls to be cut down to fifty pounds and requiring large portions of company property to be left behind never to be seen again. All of our athletic goods had to be stored away that had been so carefully packed and preserved back at Camp Lee, but even with all this our spirits were high and nothing seemed to dampen them. The four days terminating our stay at Brest passed very rapidly and we were soon to be taken to another field of our work. There were rumors as to where we were going but none were certain at present. Some had it we were going straight into the lines, while others said it couldn't be possible for our training over here had only begun. The day came however and we were marched back through the streets of Brest to our entraining point.

The railroad yards were of considerable size affording plenty of room to stack arms and have the men fall out. Pretty soon our train backed into the siding, and the men were divided into groups and loaded into the little cars, which had written on them « Forty men or eight horses ». It is useless to say that they were not crowded, because they not only had to make room for themselves, but all of their equipment had to go in there too. Five days rations were put in each car consisting of bully beef, jam and bread and stations had been

designated enroute, as places where coffee might be gotten. There were absolutely no facilities for washing making the situation quite disagreable, but with the same old smile on their faces that they always had when things went a little bit wrong, all hands scrambled aboard to locate his little corner.

It was about two fifteen that evening when our train creeped out, and now we were peering out through the train windows at the beautiful country with its far reaching fields of grain hedged in by wonderful trees. What was there about this country of France so entrancing to the eye, was it the beautiful fields with their tall and stately trees and gently rolling country, or was it just the fact of knowing how much the French people had suffered in their mighty struggle to free themselves from the tyrant's yoke. It was probably both facts combined, and our hearts went out to these proud and noble people who had faught so hard and sacrificed so much. Soon the elastic shadows of evening were creeping cross the valley extending further and further as we rolled along, until darkness obscured our view.

Sleeping on the ordinary French train is an impossibility so little rest did we get except at stops for coffee. Toward the end of our second day on this journey, instinctively we knew that we were nearing the fighting line, and had been told that on the night of this day our train would pass under gun fire and no lights or smoking would be allowed. I have no hesitation in mentioning the name of this now famous place. It was Amiens and the Germans at this time were a scant ten miles away, making it possible for their big guns to pound with ease the defenses around this town and their air service as could be seen had done its deadly work. Of course it more or less caused some excitement when we were told this fact, because who could tell at what moment those guns were going to turn loose. It wasn't a feeling of fear that this news created but on the other hand rather a feeling of curiosity to know what it would be like under fire.

We could see as we approached the town, flashes from the British guns working in response to the enemy and as our train began to jerk and pull slowing up for the stop, officers and men piled off with cups in hand to be issued their share of

coffee. This was really the first time we had come in contact with the British soldier, and it was they who dealt the coffee to our long line of tired men. It was handled with the same good system as is everything done in the British army; the Tommies handling the whole thing while we simply held our cups. The coffee was exceedingly good just like our own and it warmed our chilled bodies quite considerable for the air was a little bit frosty. We tried hard to see what the place was like, but as there were no lights allowed little headway was made in regards to sizing up the place. Of course the immediate railroad yards and buildings were within the scope of vision, but beyond these nearby objects no conception of the general surroundings could be gotten.

The shrill blast of the engine's whistle and bugle sounding assembly was a signal for all aboard and we were once more on our journey. This stop was not made in the town of Amiens, but just outside as no trains were allowed to stop directly in the town on account of the constant air raids. The ramainder of the night passed quietly so to speak, with only an occasional report of a gun and the morning dawned again gloriously fresh and beautiful. The scenery hadn't changed a great deal except that the country that we were now passing through, was more heavily wooded and a particularly noticeable feature were the white limestone roads that could be seen many miles in the distance, winding their way snake-like, through the deep valleys and over the hills.

Suddenly the surroundings changed as the train slid out of a deep cut, and now sand in great heaps could be seen instead of the big timber and rich green fields. We knew we were nearing the coast again and occasionally the azure waters of the Atlantic could be distinguished through the cuts in the sand dunes on our left. British base camps were scattered all along our line of travel, and a particular feature that more or less cast a gloom on our souls, were the numerous cemeteries filled with stricken British soldiers. Acres of ground was covered by these cemeteries revealing in reality the tremendous burden the English had borne.

It was about two fifteen the afternoon of June fifteenth that our train pulled up to the station at Calais. The city

of Calais is situated in the northern neck of France on the coast just across the channel from England. It is an ancient city built way back in the early days of the Republic, and is not very far from Boulogne, where Napoleon assembled his armies for an attack on England. The detraining was a simple matter and took only a few minutes after which the companies were immediately formed. The march to the rest camp was a comparatively hard one as have most of our marches been since that time. Along winding streets paved with cobble stones we passed, and the usual spectators along the streets watched the progress of our march with something a kin to keenness. This keen and searching glance was for the purpose of sizing us up and the men looked well and their step was snappy even though the load they were carrying was tremendous.

We arrived at camp between four and five o'clock and were immediately shown our quarters, which consisted of conically shaped tents with the floors sunk some two feet in the ground, and sand bags around the outside for protection against air raids. Sixteen men had to be assigned to each tent on account of lack of facilities consequently it was very crowded with no room to speak of for walking or moving around. The sand was deep and disagreable making it impossible to keep ones blankets free from grit. It also got in the mess kits making it very unpleasant when eating, but these were the least of our troubles and the men took it good naturedly. The first night here passed very quietly although no one slept much for we had been told to expect an air raid, but the Boche was indisposed and passed us up this time.

On the morning of the sixteenth we received instructions to turn in everything we had, with the exception of one suit of underwear, one shirt, one pair breeches and one blouse and this kinder got us ruffled, but faded away to a mere nothing when the word was passed around that we had to give up our good American rifles in exchange for ones of British make. This was a hard lump to swallow, but it had to be done and was done, with a grace only becoming a soldier. On receiving this new rifle it meant that our untiring instructions given at old Camp Lee, amounted to naught except in a general way.

Of course all army rifles no matter what nation have a similarity in their mechanism, but it was a question of a man knowing his gun after having used it many times. This business most certainly went against the grain and put us in such a frame of mind that we hardly knew what to expect next. On the second night of our stay in this camp the Huns pushed over a small air raid, and we were awakened from our peaceful slumber by the booming of the anti aircraft batteries which were placed in every conceivable position to protect the city from the dastardly birds of the air. The enemy was quickly driven off by an intense barrage these guns put up, and soon the smoke of battle gave way to the bright stars in heaven, that shone down upon us with a brilliancy seldom excelled.

The dawn of the morning June eighteenth ushered in another stage of the journey to our new training area. The sun shone down hot and mercilessly when we marched out of camp, with all we had in the world on our backs, on our way to the entraining point. The hike was made in good style and our regiment was now becoming famous for its endurance as was Jackson's Stonewall Brigade in the Civil War. Entraining and detraining had by this time become more or less a matter of course and the work was effected speedily. It was about five o'clock the same evening when the brakes began to screech and grind, and the heavy train pulled up with a sharp jerk at the small station of Samer.

This was another British camp, but not so large as the one at Calais, and this time a British band was stationed near the entrance to brighten our spirits and welcome us in. Here the men were allowed to rest for an hour and eat supper consisting of hot coffee prepared by the British, with hard tack and corned beef hash. The hour drifted by slowly and it was now time to continue our weary journey this part of the trip being scheduled on foot. We have made many hard hikes since that day, but that one will always remain a bright star in the crown of this noble regiment. The distance was said to have been ten miles which is not a long distance for trained soldiers to march under good conditions, but the circumstances in this case were exceptionally hard

and difficult. After having been on the train all day the men were naturally worn out, because traveling on a French military train is quite different from the confortable softly cushioned trains of our fine railroads.

Up hill and down, through woods and across streams the column moved on, with the shades of evening settling cozily in the hollows and a faint breeze gently stirring the tall tree tops. Halts for rests were given every hour when the men would fall out on the right of the road lolling in the grass to take the heavy weight off their tired shoulders. The twilight lingers long in France at this season of the year and the mellow notes of a thrush coming from a cozy nook, reminded us very sweetly of happy summer evenings at home. Then darkness soon fell erasing all from vision, except the stars in heaven which shone their kindly light as a beacon to guide us on our way.

Ten o'clock came and still the steady tramp of feet could be heard as the hob nailed shoes scraped on the hard limestone road. The roads were exceptionally fine reducing to a minimum the hardships of the march. No one fell out it was not the custom in this regiment and no matter how exhausted and tired a man was, he would rather have died than to have given up. There were lots of heavy feet and tired and aching bodies when at a little before midnight the column dragged up the last long hill, drifting down the other side to halt in the valley, that nestled in its bosom the little town of Doudeauville.

The battalions were scattered through the area each one having a small town; that was to be its home for a period of training the length of which had as yet been undecided. The billets were naturally hard to locate the first night, but the men were at the point where it made little difference to them whether they were in a house or not. There were three principal towns in our area. Regimental headquarters and the first battalion were situated in an around the vicinity of Doudeauville which turned out later to be a place of fair size according to the standard of French towns. The second battalion was not quite so fortunate in having for its headquarters Bezinghem, with only accomodations for one compa-

ny forcing the other three companies into small hamlets located within a radius of three kilometers. On the other hand the third battalion was quite pleasantly situated in comparison to the others making its headquarters at Grandall and having the surrounding hamlets within a two kilometer zone. The detailed arrangements of assigning billets could be attended to on the morrow so the men rolled in their blankets to dream of home and family with little thought of what the succeeding days might bring forth.

CHAPTER IV

TRAINING IN DOUDEAUVILLE AREA AND MOVE TO DOULLENS

Reveille on the following morning was later than usual and the sun was waxing high in the heavens, leaving only a faint trace of the gorgeous beauty of an early June morning with its emerald and mother of pearl tints, as the men rolled out of their blankets to gaze about at their new surroundings. The circumstances were not of a pleasing nature, but there was very little murmuring or complaining for well did everyone realize the purpose and meaning of our being there. This was our new training area, and we knew perfectly well little could be expected in the way of comforts and luxuries.

The little town was prettily situated nestling close in the valley with the sparkling waters of a beautiful creek, lending its cheerful murmurs to the chanting of bright colored birds that were darting back and forth; in the thick bushes that fringed its banks. The gentle green slopes rose to a considerable height on either side of the valley, and at intervals here and there could be seen patches of cultivated land with its dark rich texture making it obviously plain that crops in variety could be grown. Large and expansive fields of wheat seemed the predominating crop with small sections of alfalfa sliced in at opportune places. On examining the wheat for comparison with ours, it ran pretty high the grain being well filled out. There was a sad deficit in corn, none to be found anywhere, and we missed the tall proud stalks with leaves rustling and waving, bending and bowing to the gentle breezes.

Good water was as precious as gold, making it almost a necessity at times to drink the light wines and beers afforded by the estaminets and cafes, which are a part of every French

town no matter how small. These cafes were regulated by the military authorities, thereby fixing certain hours at which time they could be open. This system worked very stisfac torily eliminating to a large extent; the premium on drinks that comes about by making it a crime to even be seen near such a place.

The roads were especially good in this section, and the wonderful grades they had been built on showed a marked feature of engineering, and to observe the upkeep and maintenance of the French system of roads is ever an inspiration. Every hamlet and village no matter how small has its good roads and it is a part of their every day life to keep them in a highly efficient state of repair. The war would have been impossible had it not been for the good roads existing throughout the country and the ultimate success of the allied armies was to a large extent due to the feasibility of transporting the necessary supply of ammunition and food, making the rapid advance of our armies a reality instead of a mere theoretical process on paper. The United States at the present time, could not even hope to successfully carry out a military operation on a large scale with its present system of roads, because as they stand now; it coulds pell nothing less than defeat. Our people thoroughly understand the engineering and building of roads, but fail utterly on the most important feature and that is; the maintenance and repair of our roads after they are built.

The French cannot teach us how to build roads, but we most certainly can learn a great lesson of economy, not only in this respect, but in the wastage of vast supplies of raw material, which in the course of a few years will be in great demand throughout our country. The morning passed on rapidly and the permanent assignment to billets progressed very satisfactorily although they were widely separated. It is necessarily a hard matter for our people at home never having seen a French village to fully realize the hardships and discomforts our gallant troops have been subjected to. Just suppose for one minute the disgust of sleeping and living in a cow stable, with the chickens roosting above you and the pigs making frequent calls during the early hours of the

morning; interrupting the necessary sleep that our boys were sorely in need of. The best of the situation was made however and the troops went about their work with the same old cheerful smile, singing their way over the rougher spots and taking as a matter of course many untold disagreable duties.

The remainder of the day was spent in making a general police of the town, and soon the long shadows of evening were extending well across the adjacent hill, and the sweet fragrance of a summer's evening wafted down the valley on the silver wings of a gentle breeze, brought fond recollections to our cheerful but bedraggled souls. Retreat always has to be stood whether rain or shine, and the companies were now being formed on their respective parades for this ever inspiring ceremony. The sharp gruff voices of the sergeants could be heard calling the roll, and the click of the bolts on the rifles as the piece was brought to inspection arms, revibrated as the manual was executed successively. Then the quick sharp orders of the company commander were given in response to the soft sweet strains of our regimental band rendering the National Anthem. Supper was ready now and the long lines of men mess kits in hand, filed by the dispensing table to be given their share of the food. Soon darkness settled over all and it was not long before taps was sounded and the regiment was resting in peaceful slumber.

The travel of time was a precious item to be considered in the course of our training, and to the utmost extent did we exert ourselves to make use of every available moment. We were now a part of the Second Army Corps and as yet the first American army had not been formed; of which we were later privileged to become a part. Schools had to be started again taking into consideration the training of the different specialists arms of the service. It was a great dissapointment when we found; that the Lewis Gun had to be substituted for our new and efficient Light Browning. The Lewis Gun is a first class weapon, but cannot begin to compare with our Light Browning; which is a well known fact throughout the military world world, and the superior qualities of this newly designed weapon surpasses by far the various automatic weapons used in any European army. Bombing was taught

using live grenades for instruction, making our men fully realize the importance of this very necessary auxiliary weapon. It was also of the utmost importance that officers and men be given the necessary gas instruction, so that they might be able to detect this most cruel and deadly of all Hun atrocities, and the only possible means of perfecting ourselves in this line was by actually using the substance. Then there was bayonet fighting which had been impressed upon us from the very beginning of our training as being the most useful weapon a soldier had with the possible exception of his rifle, which in the opinion of professional soldiers is the best weapon any army possesses.

Things were going very satisfactorily and the progress of the training was most pleasing leaving few loop holes for complaints. The drudgery of the drill got on our nerves some times, but every one was embodied with the one thought that we must get full benefit of the instruction, so that when our time came to deal a blow, it would be accomplished with a master hand. The end of June was drawing near and so far, no information had been received as to what the future had in store for us. Improvements were made from time to time in the general sanitary conditions in and about the towns, and when the day finally arrived for our departure we had made quite respectable homes.

On the twenty-ninth of this same month the brigade passed in review before the Duke of Connaught, adding another glorious achievement to its already magnificent record. The elegant appearance of the entire command brought forth words of commendation and praise, but words are insufficient and fall far short when praising our gallant troops, making one stop and wonder; what just reward could be given to repay them for their endless sacrifices endured through this great struggle. The following is a true copy of the memorandum from the Brigade Commander showing his gratification and appreciation at the splendid and magnificent showing presented by the entire command on this memorable occasion. The troops did make an elegant showing and the conditions could have been better, and as it is stated in this communication His Royal Highness was evidently well pleased, making

many favorable statements not only to the General but to others as well.

HEADQUARTERS 159th INFANTRY BRIGADE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

MEMORANDUM
No. 3

France, 30 June 1918.

It is with great pleasure that the Brigade Commander announces to the Brigade the fact that His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught, commented most favorably on the showing made by the Brigade in the review of the 29th inst., and that he desired an expression of his gratification communicated to the officers and men of the Brigade.

This was the first body of United States troops ever reviewed by him, and he was particularly impressed with the general set up, sturdiness, and soldierly appearance of all.

To have made such an impression on this illustrious British soldier should be a matter of pride to every member of the Brigade, and an incentive to the performance of greater deeds.

This is but a small peace victory, but an index to what may be expected of the Brigade in the future.

By command of Brigadier General Jamerson :

R.-W. HARDENBERGH,
Major, Infantry, R. C.
Adjutant.

True Copy

These ceremonious events were creating a wonderful esprit de corps throughout the whole division and officers and men were as keen as a briar to uphold the standard at all times. Our illustrious Commander in Chief, General John J. Pershing, conferred a special honor on us by reviewing one of the Battalions of the Regiment during one of his flying visits to our area, and gave us to understand that he was well pleased with the progress of the training. All of these inspiring episodes tended to create a higher morale, sharpening the tone of the outfit and giving them something to work for.

The coming events to be taken part in by us when we were made a part of the immortal First Army will not allow us to dwell too long on the minor details during the period of training. July was now at hand, and preparations were being made to stage several baseball games between the various companies, which were to take place on the fourth, and

athletic events of various kinds had been arranged throughout the entire command. It was with glad and happy faces the men turned out on the morning of the fourth, and the weather was exceedingly good, the day being bright, sunshiny and warm, making it ideal for all of our sports. During the evening we got our first intimation of a move and it was with a little feeling of regret that the orders were read, for we had now learned to look upon this place as a temporary home. It had to be done though and rumors of absorbing interest which are ever present in the army; said we were going to a good place even better than any of our previous camps since landing on this side of the water.

The necessary preparations were made and six fifteen the morning of the fifth found the column on the move. This march was not exceptionally hard, as the distance was less than ten kilometers to the railroad center at Desvres at which point we were to entrain. Maps had been issued, with the line of march traced out, so in case of separation all units could terminate their march within a reasonable time at the railroad yard designated. The road wound in and out through large tracts of timber and presently; as we came to the top of a rise, down below in the valley could be seen spread out on a canopy of green and velvet like grass the small town of Desvres, with its railroad disappearing northward into the gruesome land of battle. The head of the column was just entering the enclosed yards about the station as we reached this point, and as each successive battalion arrived arms were stacked and the men were allowed to fall out pending the arrival of the train. The wait was not long and the cars were placed in position, and by eleven forty-five the entraining had been completed and again we were on another stage of our journey toward the front line.

The country along the way appeared more broken with heavily wooded areas bordering close along the tracks, and as the day wore on an occasional large shell hole could be seen. We passed through St. Pol which from all evidence was suffering sorely from the shock of numerous air raids. Bomb proof dugouts could be seen and sand bags were piled about the doors and windows of the houses to prevent the

flying splinters from carrying their message of destruction into the homes of innocent people. Scarcely a window was left that did not have the glass broken out from the terriffic explosion and shock of the monsterous aerial bombs. Shortly after leaving this town our train was run in a siding, and kept there for the entire afternoon, moving out again as the shadows of the swaying trees shifted back and forth, reaching out their long lean fingers to swiftly draw them back. The remainder of the journey passed very quietly with nothing to break the monotony of the persistently rumbling train. Sometime after midnight and during the early morning of the sixth of July, we arrived in Doullens sleepy tired and worn out after the long and tiresome trip. Officers and non-commissioned officers had been sent ahead the day before for the purpose of ascertaining the location of the various billets. This proved to be a good scheme and was followed throughout all of our travels. It was dark as pitch when we unloaded and you couldn't see your hand before you, as no lights were allowed for fear of air raids. Looking back on the thing now one ponders greatly at how on earth the companies were ever shown their billets under the existing circumstances. The guides led the way along winding streets and the marching was exceedingly difficult; owing to the hob nails in our shoes for the stones were slick with the dampness of the night. Each company or platoon turned off at its billets the guides showing them their places; as we moved along. Some companies were very unfortunate in being led astray, because it was practically impossible to get permanently located the first night in any place. There were several cases of men worn out with the tiresome trip simply rolling themselves in their blankets on some door step to await the coming of day. The first faint streaks of dawn were looming up in the east when finally the command had been shown its billets and it was with a heart rending sigh that many of the officers and men turned in to snatch a few hours sleep before the morrow's work commenced. We had not the faintest idea at the time how long we would be here, so dropped off into deep slumber with a profusion of mingled thoughts about the battle fields not far distant; with their horrible but yet fascinating scenes.

CHAPTER V.

DOULLENS AND TOUR IN TRENCHES

The next morning of course there was no reveille, so no one climed out of his hay until the sun was way high in the sky showering us with its brilliancy, making our lives more cheerful and causing a happy smile to come stealing over the faces of the men. The sun shine always has this effect on the doughboy and tends to enhance the value of his services ten fold, while on the other hand dark cloudy days make him grouchy, causing the least little thing to ruffle his temper. Notwithstanding all of these things a young soldier is generally willing and anxious to do his share, however hard it might be and so the day's work was commenced with the same willingness and thought characterizing our troops. The toutine duties of policing quarters was done and the general sanitary conditions gone over carefully. Our Doctor or Surgeon as commonly known looked after this end of the matter, the line officers and non-commissioned staff co-operating making the work progress very smoothly. Bath houses and so forth had to be built and naturally the lumber had to be acquired for this purpose, which as a whole was hard to obtain.

The billets in most cases were situated very conveniently and it was only a matter of a short time until all were settled comfortably. The town was plenty large to accomodate all three battalions making it most convenient and satisfactory for the purpose of administration. Heretofore the regiment had been split up as a rule the battalions being separated and billited in adjacent towns necessitating a great amount of courier work, so having them all together was the greatest kind of luxury. Doullens was quite a large town and surpassed our expectations, for little had we anticipated in the

way of accomodations. It afforded many stores, at any one of which purchases in variety could be made, and it was with exceeding pleasure we found military supplies available. There were also several hotels affording very good meals and they especially attracted our attention on account of being able to obtain eggs. To soldiers who have done their bit in France, eggs are a great luxury and whenever they could be procured, it caused acclamations of profound joy.

This town is situated almost directly south of St. Pol and a little southwest of the famous town of Arras. This indeed was a peculiar situation for a town of this size to be in, as the front line at that time was just in front of Lens extending down to the southwest by Arras; and on past Gommecourt, Hebuterne and Albert. The fighting had been of a most serious nature around Albert, the Germans endeavoring to drive on westward flanking our positions. The attempts however had been unsuccessful thanks to the good father in heaven, and the steadfast front the British presented had only been shaken; not broken. Again and again the Germans hammered this line, and just as often were repulsed, so the lines were now comparatively permanent; both sides pushing over an occasional raid for the purpose of information. This was the situation generally speaking when our troops arrived in the area to take up the work of completing their training.

Open warfare had not been thought of at this time except in a most remote way, because the British, as all others, felt confident that the war would go on at least two more years and it was not until July eighteenth that our hopes began to rise. If you remember at this critical stage; there were certain American troops that made themselves famous. The fighting at Chateau-Thierry had just begun, and the several American divisions taking part, were crowning our arms with glory. Never did troops show more gallantry and steadfastness of purpose than did our boys in this great battle, for it was here they met the Prussian Guard and proved themselves superior. This fighting was very heavy and we lost lots of good men, but the game was worth the candle; as this was the turning point without a question in

our favor, the onrush never stopping completely again until the eleventh of November.

To come back to the training again; it was practically the same old thing over and over the only difference being the fact of knowing it would terminate this time in actual front line service. Another interesting fact connected with the town of Doullens is an ancient school for girls built by Napoleon many years ago; and now used by the British for an evacuation hospital. From this ancient place surrounded by deep notes and high walls is a subterranean passage; connecting Doullens with Arras this also being built by Napoleon for military purposes only. The passage is not open now and has probably fallen in in many places, but when we were there the Doullens end of the tunnel was occupied by civilian refugees on account of not having homes to live in, and more particularly for protection against air raids.

This hospital was bombed by the Germans about the middle of May, causing a great deal of damage and killing several American Red Cross Nurses not to speak of the wounded soldiers. Several of us walked up and observed the teriffic havoc wrought by the bomb, and the buildings which were large and spacious were shaken to mere heaps of brick. During our stay in this area we were awakened practically every night by the whir of the dragons in the clouds, and the booming of anti aircraft guns. Division Headquarters had a miraculous escape during one of these raids the bomb dropping probably fifty yards away on another building; killing several civilians.

The scenery in this section often relieved the tired and weary eyes from the every day monotony of the drill field, and it was with a sigh of relief that the interesting and exciting news was given us about our occupying the front line trenches in conjunction with the New Zealanders. We had heard quite a little about the New Zealand troops and felt that it would put us on our metal to surpass their high standard of courage and gallantry. On the twenty-first of July we received our first instructions about occupying the Hebuterne sector, in conjunction with the First Wellington New Zealand Rifle Brigade and this news caused great satisfaction.

Their reputation was of a high character, being noted for their aggressiveness never tolerating for a minute a so called quiet sector. They made it their business whenever entering a new part of the line, to start right in with their aggressive spirit letting the Germans know at the beginning that they could expect no rest. On the twenty-second of this month officers and non-commissioned officers of our outfit; were sent up for the purpose of reconnaisance making a thorough investigation of all points that would be beneficial on taking over our part of the line This tour was made by officers and non-commissioned officers of each battalion separately covering a period of four days, and they gathered invaluable information.

It is a useless waste of time and words to try and describe a battle field, because even large and elaborate paintings can give only the faintest conception of the ghastly and horrible scenes. For instance take the awful destruction to vegetation that gas alone does; aside from teriffic shell fire throwing up tons of earth and shattering the wonderful forest. Then the endless chains of trenches with hideous barbed wire in front of them and the once prosperous villages completely razed to the ground. The utter desolation of the whole landscape, with nothing living in sight just makes creepy shivers go stealing over your body.

These details returning to camp reported on teir observation, and preparations were immediately started for our move to the front. There were lots of fine points to be gone over which took considerable time, but by noon the twenty-fourth all arrangements had been completed. The plan was to occupy the sector in conjunction with the New Zealand Division; battalion at a time covering the period from July twenty-fifth; to August eighteenth, and it was with not a little excitement on the morning of the twenty-fourth that the first battalion made its preparations for the take over in the lines. The first attachment with the New Zealanders was by platoons, and during the period from July twenty-fifth to August sixth; the sixteen platoons of each battalion were attached as such to the front line battalions of the New Zealand Brigades then in the line.

Neither companies nor battalions were attached as units during this period, company commanders and battalion headquarters being assigned for instructions to battalion headquarters of the New Zealand Brigades. The first battalion was attached in this manner from July twenty-fifth to twenty-ninth; being relieved by the second battalion, who was relieved in turn by the third battalion on August second. During this small operation our casualties were not startling and yet a little heavier than we had expected. The first men killed in action were gallant and noble fellows, Sergeant Fred B. Stultz and Private Albert R. Hall; dying on the field of honor July twenty-seventh nineteen hundred eighteen. The total casualties sustained for this short stay in the trenches amounted to nine killed, forty wounded and two missing. This was the regiment's baptism of fire and they upheld splendidly all of our cherished traditions winning the hearts of the New Zealanders and making a name for themselves.

During the period from August seventh to eighteenth each battalion was attached as a separate unit with a New Zealand personnel of one officer and twenty-three privates assigned to each company giving invaluable assistance with untiring energy. The first battalion on August seventh relieved the First Canterbury Battalion New Zealand Rifles, effecting a daylight relief, which was completed about seven o'clock in the evening. The sector they were occupying was the front line battalion sub sector, right Brigade just northeast of and including the village of Hebuterne. The sector was remarkably quiet during their entire tour, as only the usual patrolling was done and no casualties were suffered.

On August the eleventh they were relieved by the second battalion who took over the same sector. After very vigorous patrolling by the both the second battalion of our regiment; and the front battalion, left New Zealand Brigade on August the sixteenth, they both jumped off without artillery preparation, advancing two kilometers to a system of trenches southeast of Serre Ridge the new line being at once consolidated. Only slight resistance from scattered machine gun posts and intermittent artillery fire was encountered in this

advance, as the German evacuation in this sector had been complete. Few prisoners were captured and but little material; which of course caused some dissapointment. Our casualties again were light losing only six enlisted men killed, two officers and twenty-nine enlisted men wounded and only one man missing. The second battalion was relieved on the night of August sixteenth and seventeenth by a battalion of the Second New Zealand Infantry Brigade.

The third battalion relieved the support battalion Second New Zealand Infantry Brigade in position at Hebuterne; on the night of August the sixteenth completing the relief about nine o'clock. On August the seventeenth the battalion was ordered forward to occupy a system of trenches consolidated by the second battalion on August sixteenth, and here they stayed August seventeenth and eighteenth under intermittent but violent artillery fire. No further advance was ordered and the battalion was relieved on evening of August the eighteenth by third battalion New Zealand Rifle Brigade, the relief being effected without incident. Their casualties during this tour were extremely light; having only one enlisted man killed, one officer and two enlisted men wounded and none missing.

There were many personal achievements accomplished during our short and invaluable stay in the trenches, and many meritorious acts all deserving citation. Th followinge is a true copy of the citation of Private First Class; R. H. Hall, now Corporal of Company « C » this Regiment for bravery on the field :

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTIETH DIVISION

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

SPECIAL BULLETIN : France, 4 sept 1918.

1. The Division Commander takes great pleasure in publishing the following order to the Command, and at the same time to express his high appreciation of the gallant acts rewarded, acts which he is con-

fident will be duplicated on many fields of battle by many other members of the Command.:

ROUTINE ORDERS
by
GENERAL HON. SIR J. H. G. BYNG
K. C. B., KG. C. M. G., M. V. O.
COMMANDING THIRD ARMY.

Monday, 19th August, 1918.

MILITARY SECRETARY'S BRANCH.

1729. — HONORS AND AWARDS. — The Field Marshall Commander-in-Chief has, under special authority granted by His Majesty the King, awarded the following decorations :

THE MILITARY MEDAL

N°. 1817237 — *Private* (*1st Class*) *R. H. Hall, U. S. Infantry.*

On the night of 26th/27th July, a patrol of 7 other ranks, (2 of Auckland, and 5 U.S.A.) left NAMELESS TRENCH at K.23.b.0.2. and returned to point of departure.

Time of departure 1 a.m. due to return at 3 a.m.

OBJECT : To keep touch between our front line posts, and night posts in neighborhood of THE POINT (K.23.b.1.7).

On the return journey, the Patrol seems to have missed BLIND ALLEY, and to have got into PIG TRENCH. They were proceeding up the latter, and were challenged by an enemy sentry at about K.23.b.7.6. The location of this place is somewhat doubtful. The Patrol Leader (Corpl Roper) shot the sentry and American Private Hall dashed in and killed three with the bayonet. Three Machine Guns opened up and bombs were thrown, and it was clear the enemy were in some strength.

The Patrol scattered, and returned to our trenches. Three are missing — 1 of our men and 2 U.S.A. It is impossible to say whether the missing men are killed or now Prisoners of War.

Upon receipt of the orders conferred, they will be delivered with such military ceremony as the circumstances of service may permit.

By command of Major General Cronkhite :

During these engagements the regiment advanced some three thousand yards, occupying the position on Serre Ridge just in front of Bapaume. Shortly after we left this sector and moved to the American sector becoming a part of the immortal First Army; the New Zealanders took Bapaume. The last battalion had been relieved on the eighteenth and now preparations were being made for the move south. The news from the front at this time was very encouraging as the lines were being advanced almost without exception on all sectors. Marshal Foch was showing his genius making the Germans feel his great strength, also making them realize the over balancing weight thrown in the scale by the American Army. The morning of August the twenty-second found the regiment entrained for the move south ; to take up further duty and cover themselves with glory on the field of honor.

CHAPTER VI

THE AMERICAN SECTOR, SAINT-MIHIEL

AND FIRST PHASE OF THE MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE

The regiment at this time was in exceedingly fine condition; its morale was high and the men were very anxious and keen to get down to the American sector in order to take part in the campaigns about to be staged by General Pershing. Events were traveling by leaps and bounds and there was the least little bit of fear in our minds, that the war might end, before we could take part in some great battle. It turned out though that we were not dissapointed in this respect; for our division got its full share of the burden — ; covering its name with honor and glory.

Rarely has an outfit made more moves than this one nor covered more territory. for we had already traveled practically from one end of France to the other, and now were retracing our steps. The American Sector at present was not extra ordinarily large, most of our troops being sandwiched in with the French. The time had come however for an American army to operate alone and under the direction and leadership of its own Chief, therefore the reason for our sudden move from north to south. The British assisted by several American divisions were now driving in near Cambrai, and the French with the aid of a few more of our divisions were pressing the Hun unceremoniously in front of Soissons, continuing the drive of Chateau-Thierry. St. Mihiel remaining the most prominent salient in the line was scheduled to fall soon, but this meant one mighty stroke of the axe, so that it might be cleaved and severed clean, therefore the reason for assembling the first American army.

On August nineteenth the regiment had marched to Domart-en-Pouthieu, remaining there until the twenty-first then on to East Prouville; at which place the British rifles were exchanged, and we once more had our American rifle Model 1917. Our equipment now was part British and part American, having British Gas masks and helmets, some of which have been kept throughout all of our campaigns. The entraining for Latrecy had taken place on August twenty-second; and we arrived there pretty well worn out with the trip but rejoicing over the fact of having reached the American sector.

It was plainly seen that our lot from now on would be one of continual movement, never staying in one place long enough to even learn the name of its streets. The twenty-third found us on the road again our destination this time being Rouvres-sur-Aube. Arriving at this place the regiment was split up terribly, being scattered in eight different towns. Regimental headquarters, Company « A » and Supply Company remaining in Rouvres-sur-Aube and headquarters First Battalion with Companies « B », « C » and « D » at Arbot. The Second Battalion was very unfortunate being billeted in three small towns, Bay furnishing accomodations for Battalion Headquarters and Companies « E » and « G », while Company « F » had Aulnoy; and Company « H » resided in Germaines. The Third Battalion was no less unfortunate than the second had been, having its headquarters with Companies « I » and « K » in Chamroy with « L » and Regimental Machine Gun Company in Vitry-en-Montagne and Company « M » alone in Rouelles.

The stay in this locality was very short indeed, terminating at the end of a week, but the men enjoyed it more than any place they had been in France; with the possible exception of Doullens. The people were very kind and good to us here going out of their way to do little things for us to add if possible to our comforts. These kindnesses will always be remembered by the men of the regiment; even long after they are mustered out of the service; and have gone back to their homes scattered far and wide over the land to take up their every day duties again. The French people as a whole have done everything within their power and limited means to make our soldiers feel at home. Naturally there was little

they could do after the terrible drain of four year's war, having been stripped of every vestige of wealth in their possession.

The thirty-first of August; saw us moving again, our destination this time being Coupray. This continual moving was calculated to roughen our tempers but we were in the war now; and in to win, not to grumble. On September the first the regiment marched back to Latrecey remaining there for the night. The spirit and morale at this time was everything that could be expected, for we had suffered many hardships and nothing but nerves of steel at times; could have kept the men on their feet. The rest here was a decidedly short one for the next morning, September the second we entrained for Tronville-Nancois; and on arriving marched to the northern edge of the Bois de Montfromont and went into bivouac for the day; to restup a little before continuing the journey on to Nant le Grand.

All of this marching was fitting us for greater and bigger things; and marching alone can fit troops for the work we had before us. The regiment billited in Nant le Grand and Nant le Petit while some were bivouaced in neighboring woods. The First American Army was now being concentrated for the drive on St. Mihiel, and never before in the history of the war had such vast quantities of men, guns and material been gotten together. Marshal Foch had deemed it wise that this first army of ours assembled under the leadership of General Pershing; should have the privilege of wiping out the last distinct salient remaining on the western front. His choice was very wise for well did he know the keenness and punch required for such an undertaking. The regiment marched to Salmagne on September the eighth, as the division was to be in reserve for this offensive. On the night of the eleventh of September the artillery was hub to hub; as faras the eye could see, and we had massed some six hundred thousand troops for the first main offensive our army was to take part in.

The dawn of September the twelfth was ushered in with the thunder of thousands of guns and our Infantry moved forward on schedule time. Never had there been artillery in

such preponderance, before and the Germans likened it to horrible volcanic eruptions. Patrols from the Fourth and Fifth Corps joined early on the morning of September the thirteenth at Vigneulles; thus cutting off the St. Mihiel salient and the lines were consolidated. In less than two days the First Army had completed its mission capturing thousands of prisoners and wast quantitties of guns and material. This wonderful accomplishment gave the allies new hope, and confidence; making the Germans realize fully the young but formidable force they would have to cope with in the future.

There was no time to lose the army must be put in motion, advancing ever to greater deeds; covering our arms with glory. The Meuse-Argonne was our next great task and so the movement of troops began. Our Commander in Chief now had every confidence in his young warriors, because they had been tried, and proved themselves worthy of the most stupendous task. The division had not been actively engaged in this operation, but was held in readiness at all times during the fight to move where ever it was called. The regiment marched from Salmagne September the fifteenth, arriving in a place called Loisey the evening of the same day and went into camp for the night, embussing for the Osches woods on the morning of the sixteenth. We bivouaced in these woods until the nineteenth, when we moved on to the Bois le Ville on the same day, arriving on the night of the twentieth, and bivouacing in this locality until the twenty-fourth. We then marched to the Bois Bouchet on the twenty-fifth and remained under cover in the woods all during the day.

It becomes necessary at this point to explain fully the whole situation in regard to the operation about to be performed. On the morning of September the twenty-sixth the Third Army Corps with the Eightieth Division in the center, the Thirty-third Division on the right, the Fourth Division on the left and the Third Division in reserve were to attack in the direction of Mezieres with the mission of breaking the hostile resistance between Rau de Forges and Bois de Foret and exploiting the success by advancing north from Bois de Foret, in the meantime organizing the left bank of the Meuse for defense as the attack progressed northward.

It was ordered by the Corps that the leading elements should follow the rolling barrage as closely as possible; in order to penetrate the hostile second position where the line would halt thirty minutes, except in Bois de Jure through which the right of the line would advance to the Corps objective following the rolling barrage and mopping up the woods as it advanced. The 160th Brigade was to be the leading Brigade with the 319th Infantry on the right; and the 320th Infantry on the left; each regiment echeloned in depth with one battalion in front line. The troops attached to this Brigade for the execution of the attack were : One battalion 313th Field Artillery and one company of the 305th Engineers.

Our Brigade, the 159th, less the 313th Machine Gun Battalion and one company of the 305th Engineers formed the divisional reserve, so on the night of the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth of September the regiment moved into position of readiness and bivouaced in system of trenches two kilometers southwest of Chattancourt. The men were thoroughly equipped and in excellent spirits. Seven thirty the morning of the twenty-sixth we moved by battalions to position north of Esnes-Laclaide road; and about one thirty the same day moved forward in colum of battalions to take up position on Hill 272; two kilometers north of Bethincourt in support of the 319th Infantry which was the right regiment of the attacking brigade. On arriving in this new position the First Battalion, Regimental Machine Gun Company and One Pounder Platoon were attached to the 319th Infantry, so continued their march on through Guercourt, deploying on the southern edge of the Bois Jure; moving north into the woods and remaining in support during the night of September twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh.

The Third Battalion on arriving at Hill 272 was attached to the 320th Infantry, which was the left regiment of the attacking Brigade, moving into position just north of Hill 259 and northeast of Cuisy about seven thirty in the evening. They remained in support of the 320th Infantry during the night of September twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh, the remainder of the regiment going into bivouac in trenches two kilometers north of Bethincourt. The 313th and 314th Machine Gun Bat-

talions took up position immediately in front of trench Blanchard for long range overhead fire. The Trench Mortar Battery occupied a position in Hambourg trench, with a mission of cutting wire and putting destructive fire in the vicinity of the town of Bethincourt.

The attack on the morning of the twenty-sixth had been preceded by a heavy artillery barrage and the Infantry left their parallel of departure, trench d'Alsace, trench Coveland, trench Brody advancing under the protection of the rolling barrage. The bridge for heavy traffic over the Forges River at Bethincourt was completed by the 305th Engineers at about nine in the morning, and three Batteries of Field Artillery immediately crossed over it. The greatest resistance during the first phase of the attack was machine gun fire from the southeastern edge of Bois des Forges, from trench de Billemont and Bois de Jure. By twelve noon the attacking troops approached the Corps objective and at this time our Brigade was moved forward to the vicinity of Bethincourt; in order to support the attack more closely.

During the afternoon the fighting continued and the opposition grew stronger and stronger from both artillery and machine gun fire; which came from the Bois de Dannevoux, Bois de Mariaux and the Bois de Septsarges. The 160th Brigade was ordered to the attack again; in order that the Army objective might be gained before nightfall. In compliance with these orders this Brigade after slight artillery preparation executed an attack which was only partially successful. By midnight of the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh the 319th Infantry had reached the Army objective with its right flank resting on the Meuse. During the night the 320th Infantry pressed its attack and reached a position along the northern edge of the Bois d' en Dela, but was unable to further advance without incurring very heavy casualties; due to the heavy artillery and machine gun fire coming from the Bois de Dannevoux.

On the morning of the twenty-seventh the Third Battalion of this regiment with Regimental Machine Gun Company and One Pounder Platoon attached moved to hillside a little northwest of Dannevoux; in support of the 319th Infantry. They moved into the Bois d' en Dela and remained in support.

At one o'clock the afternoon of the twenty-seventh the 160th Brigade attacked; and advanced to the Army objective. Early in the morning of the twenty-eighth, a counter attack on the left flank from the direction of Brieulles was repulsed, and reports were also received that the town Vilosnes was completely destroyed by enemy mines; as well as the bridge at Vilosnes, Sivry and Consenvoye.

At four o'clock the evening of the twenty-eighth the Second Battalion of this regiment was attached to the 320th Infantry, and moved into position along the southeastern fringe of the Bois de Septsarges between five and six o'clock the same evening, filling the gap in the line between the 320th Infantry and the Fourth Division. This move being successful communication was immediately established with the latter. The Third Battalion this same afternoon moved into the lines and took up position along northern limits of Bois de la Cote Lemort, the remainder of the regiment staying in its former location. The outstanding feature of the day's fighting was the repeated attacks on Hill 281 south of Brieulles, and the capture of the large dump north of Bois la Ville on the left bank of the Meuse. During the evening of the twenty-eighth orders were received for the relief of the division; and on the night of the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth this relief was effected. Upon being relieved the battalions and special units attached were returned to the regiment. This same evening orders were received to take up position in support of the Thirty-seventh Division, so the regiment began to move by battalions to the northern edge of the Bois de Montfaucon. These orders however were revoked before the movement had been completed, and the regiment went into bivouac in the trenches northeast and east of Cuisy.

The thirtieth day of September; brought no changes in the location of the regiment. The First Battalion, Machine Gun Company and One Pounder Platoon were in trenches one kilometer northeast of Malancourt, with the Second Battalion in trenches just East of Cuisy, and the Third Battalion southeast of Hill 236. Regimental Headquarters was established on the Bethincourt-Cuisy road near the co-ordinates 14.4-77.5. Although our regiment was not in the front line during this

drive, it had been put to many sore tests and had suffered a few light casualties; amounting to eighteen men wounded. It is most important that the results of this offensive be stated for during the three days fighting the division had made a wonderful record, gaining all of its objectives and advancing a total distance of nine kilometers. We were opposed in this engagement by three German Divisions, the 7th Reserve Division, 117th Division, 5th Bavarian Reserve Division and Various Landstrum Battalions. We had captured thirty-five officers and eight hundred fifteen other ranks; aside from a great amount of arms and ammunition, which amounted to seventy-seven German Machine Gun, seven Minenwerfers, five hundred thirty-seven German rifles, sixteen pieces of artillery, five thousand twenty-five boxes of grenades and five million five thousand rounds of small arms ammunition. The total casualties for the division in killed, wounded and missing was twenty-seven officers and one thousand thirty-seven men. The next chapter will take up the second phase of the action, which terminated in the Bois des Ogons, in which our regiment was the right regiment of the attacking Brigade.

CHAPTER VII

NANTILLOIS AND THE BOIS DES OGONS

The first, second and third of October; brought no changes worth mentioning in the location of the regiment. The men were weary and worn out with the constant marching, taking up positions in support and being on the alert at all times to fill any gap that might have occurred. The high ridge just east of Cuisy afforded splendid observation of the surrounding country, and everyone was more or less curious to see exactly what it looked like. Off to the left was a high and prominent peak; with the town of Montfaucon perched upon its crest the slopes receding gently from about it. To the right snuggling in the valley was Dannevoux, with the heights rising in the distance on the northeast bank of the Meuse, where the Germans had masked batteries; that gave us lots of trouble.

The trenches we were now occupying had been formerly manned by the Germans and old machine gun posts were here and there with the guns still mounted. There were hideous wire entanglements in abundance, and the ground was literally perforated with shell holes; that our barrage of the twenty-sixth of September had made. Back behind us in the valley were dumps of various kinds springing up all around, and the roads were jammed with supply trucks, artillery and every kind of motor vehicle. There were gangs of Engineers repairing the roads, military police directing traffic and the whole thing seemed in such a tangle, that it looked almost impossible.

As evening drew on the smoke from the company kitchens curled up in long snake-like curves, wending its way heaven-

ward, and the smell of crisp bacon, onions and potatoes came drifting along the valley propelled by a gentle breeze. Carrying parties could be seen coming down the slope with dixies swinging by their side, they were coming back; after having taken the welcome supper to the men in the trenches on the ridge. Occasionally the Boche put over a big one, searching for our ration dumps, and he was not always unsuccessful, but for the most part little harm was done. Our batteries in turn would reply, and then things would kinder quiet down so to speak for the night.

Gas sentries necessarily had to be on all night, and several times the alarm was given and our needed rest disturbed. The morning of the third of October burst forth beautifully clear, with a faint mist hanging in the vallies, and but for the occasional burst of a shell you would hardly believe that a war was in progress. The whole division less one battalion of the 318th Infantry; which was still attached to the 4th Division was now assembled in the immediate vicinity of Cuisy. The Post of Command of the Division had moved to the ravine one kilometer northwest of Bethincourt, just north of Cuisy-Bethincourt road. Little did we dream on this morning of what our lot was to be in the course of the next few days. The morning passed rapidly, and soon the noon day meal was over and it must have been about three o'clock when a runner blew in; and orders were received for Battalion Commanders to report to Regimental Headquarters at once. Some how we all felt as though something was in the wind, but couldn't make ourselves believe the actual truth; although we knew it had to come soon.

About five o'clock that afternoon the Colonel, the three Majors and several other officers filed into our trench and we could see by the serious look on all of their faces that there was a big job ahead. A rather long discussion ensued, and there was much talk about the time being too short for proper preparation. This talk was useless though, because it had to be done and we were soon told that the regiment was to go over the top the next morning. There was no time to lose the men had to be gotten ready, orders had to be issued and many many details had to be attended to. There had been

no time for reconnaisance of the ground and without exception the terrain was entirely unfamiliar to all concerned. It was a considerable distance to the line of departure, a matter of some six or seven kilometers, and this being true our time for preparation and study of maps was entirely insufficient.

The attack was to be made in the Nantillois-Cunel sector; then held by troops of the 79th and 4th Divisions. The eastern limit of the zone of action extended from Septsarges four hundred yards from the western edge of the Bois de Fays, thence north through the Bois der Malaumont — Hill 299 — Aincreville inclusive. The western limit of the zone of action, Montfaucon exclusive, Hill 259, Nantillois-Cunel road inclusive, Bantheville exclusive, Andevanne inclusive. The attack was to be made in liaison with the 4th Division on the right and the 3th Division on the left; the purpose being to penetrate the hostile third position between Cunel and Meuse, capturing the high ground north of Cunel and gaining the Army First Phase Line running from west to east; through the center of the town of Bantheville, the northern edge of Bois des Rappes, the northeastern edge of Clairs Chanes, Hill 299, Bois de Foret inclusive and Brieulles inclusive. The objective of this division was that portion of the Army First Phase Line lying within the zone of action of this division.

The order for the attack was issued late the afternoon of October the third, and it provided that our Brigade, the 159th which had been in reserve during the action in the Dannevoux-Brieulles attack, should be the attacking brigade. Verbal instructions had previously been given to Brigade, and by them to the regiments and steps were being taken to prepare the troops for the coming action. The Post of Command of our Brigade moved to Fayel Fme, on the Cuisy-Montfaucon road about one and one half kilometers west of Cuisy. One company of the 313th Machine Gun Battalion had been attached to each front line battalion, and the remaining companies being held as a Brigade reserve, on the Montfaucon-Cuisy road in the vicinity of the Brigade Post of Command.

It was no time for parleying, or making excuses, the important thing was to do our best come what might, and

without a doubt every officer and man strained every nerve in order that our beloved regiment might make a creditable showing. The Colonel and his staff had departed, and also the Majors had gone to their respective posts, supper had been partaken of and now our efforts were beginning to mould into shape. The Second Battalion had been designated as the attacking battalion, and it was about eleven o'clock the night of the third when the word passed along the line that all was ready for the move forward. The sky was clear but the stars were dimmed as a slight mist hung closely to the ground. The whir of a big bombing machine could be heard far off on its way leaving a wake of utter desolation and destruction. Occasionally the burst of a large shell illuminated the surroundings, and the flash from our guns made one think of a far off thunder storm; with its intermittent flashes of lightning. On and on; trudged the long column, struggling over huge heaps of earth thrown up by teriffic explosions. Time was creeping on and the leading battalion had not yet reached the designated forming up place.

There was a decided lack of confidence caused by lack of preparation, but we were there to do our best under any circumstances no matter how hard they might be. It must have been after one o'clock when the column of the Second Battalion closed up on the Montfaucon-Septsarges road, just west of Septsarges. Here the blanket rolls were cut loose from the packs, leaving the men with only reserve rations and a few necessary toilet articles, and one blanket adjusted in a circular shape; tied around the haversack. Gas masks were put in the alert position and the companies formed in platoon columns. A little meadow several hundred yards wide had to be traversed, in which there were numerous light French Batteries. The troops had to pick their way between these guns; finally getting straightened out as we reached the toe of the slope that led to the top of Hill 295.

The Third Battalion as Brigade Reserve moved into position in trench system east of Fayel Fme, and the First Battalion with one company of 313th Machine Gun Battalion took up a position on the southern slope of Hill 295 as support for the Second Battalion. It was now nearly two o'clock and

the going was hard, there were numerous thick thorny hedges to go through, and the grade at this particular juncture was very steep. The fog had gotten very thick; making it almost an impossibility to arrive at a true sense of direction. Pretty soon the battalion reached the top of the left wing of Hill 295; and started down the forward slope. At this point it was decided that they were bearing too far to the left; which in all probability was true, but it proved to be a fatal mistake to change direction under the existing conditions. The battalion should have been halted, and some known landmark might have been located with reference to the map.

The march continued however, but now they were bearing more to the right, pretty soon a road loomed up in front of us and no one was quite sure of its identity. Battalion Headquarters stopped here, but the Battalion moved on; which step later proved fatal. Time was as precious as life; and it was now about four thirty o'clock and the attack was to be made at five thirty. In the meantime Battalion Headquarters had gone on down into Nantillois; thereby becoming separated from the battalion and causing a hopeless situation. Patrols were sent out in every direction to try and locate the Battalion but without avail, and by five o'clock it was deemed wise that the First Battalion be substituted in its place.

The parallel of departure was Cierges, Nantillois, Brieulles road north of Nantillois. Formation for the attack was two Regiments side by side, our regiment on the right and the 318th Infantry on the left, each regiment in column of battalions. The First Battalion was now ordered forward and the Second was left in support; on account of not having reached its proper assembly point. The Third Battalion, as Brigade Reserve, was initially just north of Montfaucon-Cuisy road, about one kilometer east of Montfaucon.

The 318th Infantry had in the front line, Second Battalion, and the Third Battalion in support. Under the Division order, one company of the 305th Engineers was attached to the attacking Brigade and went forward to Nantillois, from which place it was later withdrawn to Septsarges, not being employed by the Brigade until the night of October the sixth, when it was used to aid in the consolidation of the lines. This company during the period it was in Septsarges assisted in bringing Trench Mortar and Small Arms Ammunition forward to the front line. One Battalion of the 313th Field Artillery was assigned to the attacking Brigade as accompanying artillery. This battalion however, was incorporated in the barrage and did not move forward during the operations of the first day. The 160th Brigade remained in reserve; but was kept in readiness to move forward any of its units at a moment's notice.

The First Battalion went over at about six o'clock that morning as the barrage scheduled didn't drop at the proper time. They advanced a considerable distance and upon reaching the line of Hill 274, the first wave was met by very heavy machine gun fire from the north, northeast and east and part of this fire infiladed our lines. We received intense artillery fire from the north, northeast and east and only a few of our troops succeeded in reaching the edge of the Bois des Ogons. No further advance could be made beyond this position during the day. In addition to the high explosives and shrapnel used by the enemy, he also threw over a great many gas shells in the vicinity of Nantillois and the ravines around the town.

During the afternoon of the fourth another attack was ordered and at five thirty the attack took place along the whole front, after a feeble artillery preparation. This attack failed, but our troops filtered into the Bois des Ogons under cover of darkness but were unable to organize and hold the ground due to the machine gun and artillery fire, so retired to the southern edge of the woods during the night. On the morning of the fifth the reserve companies of the 313th Machine Gun Battalion, and the company formerly with the attacking battalion of the 318th Infantry were ordered to a position south of Hill 264, northwest of Nantillois, in order to cover with long range machine gun fire an attack planned under orders for the morning of the fifth of October. This attack, after artillery preparation did not succeed, and the troops continued throughout the day; their position south of the woods, despite continuous and heavy shelling. During this period units were reorganized, and at six o'clock the attack was resumed supported by Divisional artillery, and

the 228th French Field Artillery which was attached. In this attack the line advanced to the northern edge of the Bois des Ogons, without very severe casualties, the advance coming as a surprise to the enemy being executed partially under cover of darkness.

All during the day of October the sixth; the positions were held and defensive organization was begun. The left of the line held by one Battalion of the 319th Infantry which had been put under command of the Commanding Officer of the 317th Infantry, was subjected to machine gun fire both from the front and on the flanks, also Trench Mortar and Artillery fire, and at noon the battalion retired about four hundred yards; to enable the 315th Artillery to reduce the enemy machine gun positions in the vicinity of the Fme de Madeline. After the completion of this fire about two o'clock in the afternoon the original position was resumed. Artillery fire was also timed to coordinate with an attack by the Brigade on our left, which was to come off about two o'clock, and continued until four in the afternoon in support of the advance of the 3rd Division on our left, and to enable our front line to push out patrols to trenches north of the Bois des Ogons and occupy them if possible. Our patrols pushed out about four in the afternoon, but were unable to reach the forward position.

On the night of the sixth and seventh of October, the First and Third Battalion of the 319th Infantry took over the front line, with two companies of the 315th Machine Gun Battalion in reserve, and one Battalion of the 320th Infantry in the trench Des Artisans about one kilometer east of Montfaucon and under orders of the Division Commander. Our entire Brigade withdrew during the night of the sixth and seventh, and on the morning of the seventh took up a position south of Cuisy. The command of the sector remained with the Commanding General of our Brigade until twelve o'clock noon on the seventh, at which time it passed to the Commanding General of the 160th Brigade.

After the capture of the Bois des Ogons steps were immediately taken towards the organization of the ground, with a view to defense or advance, and during the course of the seventh of October, this organization of the ground was continued with the assistance of the 305th Engineers. During the afternoon of the eighth, it was reported that the enemy had placed a smoke screen from Romagne to one kilometer east of Cunel and it is believed that at this time; he effected a relief along the front of the 3rd Division. On the ninth it was learned that strong enemy positions existed north of Hill 299 and several other enemy strong points and batteries were identified along the front of our sector. The artillery was placed upon these strong points and every effort was made to prepare the way for an advance. On October the tenth the Third Battalion with Regimental Machine Gun Company, attached under orders of the Commanding General of the 160th Brigade moved to Hill 295 southeast of Nantillois where it took up a position as Brigade Reserve, and the remainder of the regiment remaining in the Cuisy area. The afternoon of the eleventh the entire regiment moved to vicinity of Hill 295, and when the division was relieved we moved by battalions to the northeast section of the Foret de Hesse and went into bivouac the move being completed by two o'clock in the morning of October the twelfth. We remained in this vicinity for two days moving out again on the fourteenth and marched to Dombasle; where the regiment embussed for the Triacourt area. Arriving in this area Regimental Headquarters, Machine Gun Company, Supply Company, Companies « A » and « B », and the Third Battalion were billeted in Rembercourt. Companies « C » and « D » were in the little town of Courcelles and the Second Battalion in Seraucourt. Our casualties for the month of October had been pretty severe; having one officer and eighty men killed, twenty-two officers and four hundred seventy-two men wounded with only ten men missing. The Division had been opposed in this operation by the 5th Bavarian Reserve Division, 28th Division, 236th Division, 115th Division and the 5th Pioneer Lanstrum Battalion.

The line had been advanced to a depth of four kilometers and the prisoners captured were very light as only thirty officers and one hundred two other rank; had been taken in. The materail captured amounted to ten 77mm guns, two 77 Anti-aircraft guns, one 6 inch Howitzer, four 150mm guns,

6 Minenwerfers and fifteen thousand 77mm shells. The Division had suffered pretty severe casualties from October the fifth to twelfth having killed, wounded and missing one hundred thirty-nine officers and three thousand four hundred twelve enlisted men.

The entire operation of our Brigade had been seriously hampered by misinformation coming from the flanking divisions and acting on this information repeated attempts were made to out flank the strongly held Bois des Ogons. These attempts however proved very unsucessful in every case on account of heavy machine gun fire coming from our flanks, and it was later learned that neither of the flanking Divisions had advanced their line as far as our own. During the second phase of the operation the supply of our troops was at all times very satisfactory, both in ammunition and rations. This was due partly to the improved condition of the roads. The troops now back in the area around Rembercourt were being refitted and reorganized for our next great offensive, which was to take place in the Argonne proper. We had learned our lesson in this fight around Nantillois and the Bois des Ogons and were preparing to reap the benefit of the mistakes that had been made. The troops had shown great gallantry and had advanced unflinchingly to the attack in the face of disastrous machine gun and artillery fire and were anxious now to apply the lessons which they had learned.

There were many acts of personal gallantry achieved during these operations; which can never be known to others than the men who stood beside the gallant fellows who accomplished these deeds. We had gotten a taste of real war and the hardships suffered were far beyond any words that might be used in endeavoring to express them. Naturally there are many minor details that necessarily have to be left out, or otherwise our story would never end. The Regiment had borne itself true to its standard; and every officer and man is proud of its record. The following proclamation issued by the Division Commander on the thirtieth of September characterizes him throughout and shows the appreciation and value that he had for his troops. In turn the men showed their esteem for their Commanding General in the

splendid work that they accomplished in the coming offensive. This is a true copy of the proclamation issued by the Commanding General, Eightieth Division on the thirtieth of September 1918.

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTIETH DIVISION

A. E. F. (In the field).

30th september 1918.

To the Officers and enlisted Men of the 80th division

I wish to express to you my deep appreciation of the great work accomplished by you, in your first active operation.

Your work has received the highest commendation from our Corps Commander, and his confidence in your military prowess is evidenced by the demands he has made upon your services.

It is too soon to officially mention individual deeds, but you may rest assured that due honors will be recommended in all cases of personal distinction.

Remember, as well, that whatever hardships you may have to suffer, the Divisional Staff, whose duty it is to provide for you, have done and will continue to do, all that is within the limits of possibility, to lessen your burdens. Give them *your* thanks.

You will soon be called upon for another push.

Remember that you made the Army Objective on your first call.

Remember that the Eightieth Division *can never stop short* of the Army Objective, wherever it may be placed.

The enemy is faltering; his allies are deserting him. His infantry will not stand before your onrush.

Continue to smother his machine gunners by skilfull maneuvering; hit his line hard and push through.

GET HIM ON THE RUN, AND WE SHALL EAT OUR TAHNKSGIVING DINNER IN PEACE.

A. Cronkhite
Major. General.

CHAPTER VIII

MEUSE-ARGONNE SECOND PHASE

SIVRY - BUSANCY - VAUX - SOMMAUTHE - BAR - BEAUMONT

In preparation for the coming offensive the entire division was in the Triacourt area from the thirteenth of October to the twenty-fourth of October, for the purpose of training, reorganization and re-equipment. On October the twenty-fourth the task mentioned above had been completed and the regiment embussed for the La Chalade-Le-Claon-Le Neufour-Les Islettes area, and our division had now become a part of the First Army Corps. We had expected to go straight in to the fighting again from our last station, but for some unavoidable reason had been delayed, and remained in the last named area until the morning of October the thirty-first.

During our short stay here the regiment indulged in a period of intensive training. Browning, heavy machine guns and automatic rifles were issued throughout; just prior to our move from the Triacourt area. The enemy now held the line along the southern edge of the Bois de Bourgogne one kilometer south of St. Juvin, thence along seven hundred meters south of Landres et St. Georges, and the First American Army, while continuing its operation east of the Meuse was planning to attack on its front west of the Meuse. The First Corps was to attack on the front from Grandpré to St. Georges, with three divisions in the line. The Eightieth Division was on the right, the Seventy-seventh Division in the center, and the Seventy-eighth Division on the left. It was intended that the enemy be enveloped from the right, which from all appearances meant a rapid advance for our

division. It was scheduled; that the high ground south of Verpel should be carried on the first day, with the object in view of driving to Boult aux Bois upon further orders, thereby making a junction with the Fourth French Army ,attacking on the left of the First Corps ,and enveloping the Bois de Bourgogne. The Eightieth Division had the mission of covering the left of the Fifth Corps, attacking on the right of the First Corps, and seizing the high ground to the north of Sivry-lez-Buzancy, gaining this point the first day of the attack.

On the morning of October thirty-first this regiment as part of Division Reserve moved by battalions from Les Islette area to the high ground one kilometer southeast of Fleville, where it took up a position in support of the attacking Brigade and went into bivouac for the night. This march was one of the most strenuous ever endured by our gallant regiment, as the last part of it was traversed after nitgh fall. The distance was twenty-two kilometers, in full marching order, and the roads were jammed with traffic; which made conditions exceedingly undesirable.

November the first the regiment was held in readiness during the entire day, but did not move forward until five o'clock that evening, when it marched by battalions to the ravines west of Sommerance and north of Sommerance-St. Juvin road, where troops went into bivouac for the night of November the first and second. The zone of action for the right east limit of the division was Vauquois, Cheppy, Charpentry, Raulny, Exermont, Fleville, Sommauthe, St. Georges, thence along the 300th Meridian to ridge northwest of Imecourt, thence northeast along ridge between Bayonville-Sivry-lez-Buzancy-Foose and Vaux en Dieulet. The left west limit of the zone of action Chatel Chehery, Cornay, Meridian 298 from the Aire River to the western edge of Buzancy, thence north to St. Pierremont.

The 160th Brigade was the attacking brigade and on November the second our regiment was attached to this brigade and was ordered to be ready to move under orders of Commanding General, 160th Brigade. At this juncture Companies « A » and « B », 313th Machine Gun Battalion, and Second Bat-

talion 320th Field Artillery were attached. At four a. m. orders were received to attack in direction of Buzancy, and gained the subsequent Army Objective, within the limits of the division boundary. Troops of the Second Division were reported to be in woods north, west and south of Malmy. The 319th Infantry at that time in position on the general line from Hill 298 extending in a southerly direction was ordered to attack the woods extending through squares K80 and K81 and to halt on western edge of same.

On account of the unusual extent of our front and the fact that both flanks were in the air, it was deemed wise to attack with two battalions in line, and one in support. Company « A », 315th Machine Gun Battalion and the Regimental One Pounder Platoon was attached to the First Battalion. Company « D », 313th Machine Gun Battalion and one accompanying gun of the Second Battalion, 320th Field Artillery were attached to the Third Battalion. The Regimental Machine Gun Company was attached to the Second Battalion, which was designated as the support battalion. The remaining Field Artillery and Regimental Stokes Mortars were kept under Regimental control and the above assignments did not change during these operations.

At 4 : 10 a. m. the regiment moved by battalions and took up a position of readiness disposed as follows ; First Battalion — E9113 — 9713, Third Battalion E9713 — AO814, Second Battalion in support on reverse slope one kilometer northeast of Imecourt. Regimental Headquarters was established at E9800 and our patrols had reported no enemy south of Sivry. The advance began at 10 : 00 a. m., encountering slight machine gun fire, which was quickly overcome until the advanced elements began nearing the vicinity of Buzancy, where they were met by heavy fire from machine guns organized in depth; on ridges north and northeast of Buzancy. These machine gun emplacemnts were successively attacked and at five o'clock that evening our troops pushed forward to the line E7766 — E8365 — E8650 — E9457 — E9654 and A1451.

This new line was organized and held despite heavy machine gun and artillery fire during the night of November

second and third. Machine guns were echeloned in depth and placed on each flank, Company « H », Second Battalion, went into position south of Hill 287, Company « G » in ravine north of Fme de Charmes and the remaining two companies on reverse slopes north of Sivry. Regimental Headquarters was established at Sivry and contact was established and maintained with Second Division on right and Seventy-seventh Division on left. The supporting artillery was not able to get into position in time to assist our initial advance, but was successfully used, however, on the night of the second and third against located machine gun nests and for harassing fire. At 7 : 00 p. m. the regiment was relieved from assignment to 160th Brigade.

Attacks made on machine gun nests during the night of the second and third were generally unsuccessful, and the front line was not materially advanced. In the course of the day's operations we occupied Sivry, Bar and Buzancy. On the night of the second and third the 318th Infantry was ordered to move into position on our left. The advance was continued on the morning of November the third by the entire Brigade. The regiment advanced at day break with two battalions abreast, direction of attack, northeast, the First Battalion attacking along the entire Regimental sector within the division boundaries. The Third Battalion had instructions to keep its left on the division east boundary and to extend its right flank sufficiently to maintain contact with the Second Division on its right. The Second Battalion was designated as Brigade Reserve and moved under orders of the Brigade Commander. The advance was preceded by a short but successful artillery preparation, contact had been established with the 318th Infantry on the left, when they moved into position.

The leading battalions advanced rapidly, at first encountering only slight machine gun fire which was speedily overcome. At about 11 : 00 a. m. the left battalion was held up temporarily, by heavy machine gun fire from the La Garenne woods and again at 1 : 55 p. m. by heavy fire from Hill 297 and heights southeast of Vaux. At 4 : 30 p. m. the right battalion was definitely checked, by organized machine gun resistance

and severe artillery fire. In the face of continued machine gun fire the left battalion managed to push on and Regimental Headquarters moved to Hill 271. During the afternoon there was excessive aeroplane activity, both friendly and hostile the greater part being hostile. During the night fairly heavy hostile machine gun fire was continued, although several posts were successfully attacked by our patrols.

During the early hours on the morning of November the fourth the Third Battalion was relieved by the Second Battalion, the former becoming the Brigade Reserve. The advance was begun again at day break and pushed rapidlya head; meeting only slight resistance. The left battalion pushed forward vigorously and at 10 : 00 a. m. had occupied Sommauthe, where it encountered some enemy resistance which increased to the north of the village. The advance of the battalion was temporarily halted at this point to allow troops on the left, which was the Seventy-seventh Division, to come up, but was resumed at 2 : 00 p. m. On reaching the line V1238 — V1737 — 1939 it was met by extremely heavy and well directed machine gun fire from ridges in southwest corner of square V14. Patrols were immediately sent out and attempts made to flank these positions from the east. The attempts were, however, only partially successful and strong enemy resistance continued through the remainder of the afternoon and night.

The right battalion which was the Second Battalion pushed its advance rapidly and occupied Vaux en Dieulet at 7 : 00 a. m. with comparatively little opposition, but was held up temporarily on the high ground just north of Vaux. The advance was continued and pushed ahead to the northern edge of the Bois du Four where it halted and the companies were reformed. Regimental Headquarters was established in Vaux about noon of this day. Attached artillery was used to good effect on Thuillerie, Petite Foret and Beau Séjour farms. At 9 : 00 p. m. the Third Battalion was ordered forward to take up support position immediately in rear of the Second Battalion.

At 2 : 30 a. m. the morning of the fifth of November the Second Battalion pushed rapidly forward, meeting only with

slight opposition and occupying Beaumont at 4 : 30 a. m. and capturing prisoners there. At approximately 6 : 00 a. m. this Battalion was occupying the general line V4875 — V6178, thence north and east around the outskirst of Beaumont. The left battalion which was the First Battalion advanced at dawn after a short Trench Mortar preparation and moved quickly forward to the Regimental Objective, La Thibaudière Fme-Beaumont Road; which it reached at 9 : 00 a. m., but was unable to establish contact with troops on our left until mid-day.

At approximately 3 : 30 p. m. both battalions again advanced, with a new objective which was the Yoncq-Beaumont road. Little resistance was met; and the Second Battalion reached its objective by 6 : 00 p. m. The First Battalion was held up in ravine west of La Harnoterie Farm, by heavy machine gun fire from well concealed emplacements. The fire became so intense that the battalion was forced to withdraw. Vigorous patrolling toward the Meuse was carried out through the night by both battalions, and a small detachment of Corps Cavalry rendered very valuable service; by definitely locating hostile machine guns and emplacements.

At dawn on the morning of the sixth the Second Battalion took over the entire regimental sector, relieving the First Battalion, and establishing itself on the Yoncq-Beaumont road with its right flank including Beaumont. At 6 : 30 a.m. the First Division leap frogged our forward elements along the Yoncq-Beaumont road, and at 9 : 15 a. m. it was reported that their attack was progressing rapidly toward the Meuse, advancing more than 1500 yards without meeting opposition. Upon relief the Regiment marched by battalions to area one kilometer north of Sommauthe, where it assembled and went into bivouac. We were told upon arriving here that our rest would be for only forty-eight hours, at the end of which time we would again resume the attack. On the second night when our rest was nearing its end, the glad news was given us that the division stood relieved, and that we would march back to the vicinity of Le Claon. This news was very inspiring and coupled together with the thoughts of our accomplishments our spirits soared sky high.

During the four days covered by this operation the division had advance twenty-five kilometers in an air line, and our beloved regiment had nineteen of the twenty-five to its credit not to mention the six towns it had captured. The number of prisoners captured was comparatively small, numbering only fifty, but this is accounted for by the exceedingly rapid retreat conducted by the Germans. The material captured by our regiment alone amounted to forty-five heavy machine guns, one hundred seventeen light machine guns, twenty-three minenwerfers, nine 77 field guns, five 155 field guns, two 210 howitzers and three anti tank guns, also vast dumps and supplies of ammunition, which could not be counted. Other captures in the way of material were four automobile trucks, forty-eight gas drums, one caisson and wagon of signal supplies, five harvesting wagons and aeroplane accessories, one first aid station complete, one steam shovel and ten small railroad cars, two medical carts, one transport wagon, two kitchens and large stores of ammunition, grenades, pyrotechnics and blasting powder. The above mentioned captured material does not include rifles; or rifle ammunition as the regiment did not have an opportunity for salvage work in territory occupied.

Our casualties were extremely light considering the great advance that was made; having only two officers killed and twenty-three enlisted men, four officers wounded and one hundred ninety men, making our total for killed, wounded and missing six officers and two hundred seventeen enlisted men. The casualties for the entire division in killed, wounded and missing from October the thirtieth to November the sixth was forty-four officers and one thousand fifteen enlisted men. The division had been opposed in this operation by the Forty-fifth Bavarian Division, Fifty-second Division, Thirty-first Division. One Hundred Fifteenth Division, Two Hundred-Fortieth Division, Two Hundred Thirty-sixth Division and the Tenth Division, making a total of seven divisions offering resistance in our front. The division had taken prisoners, thirty-eight officers and seven hundred ninety-three enlisted men, including one entire Battalion Staff. Material captured by the division amounted to fifty-five guns

of varying calibres, twenty-two minenwerfer, two hundred thirty-eight heavy machine guns, two hundred sixty-nine light machine guns, eight anti tank gun rifles and one thousand one hundred sixty infantry rifles, with vast quantities of ammunition for all guns not to speak of wagons, limbers, motor trucks, armored automobiles, kitchens, telephones and wire, steam shovels, railway, narrow gauge, and various other items.

On the morning of November the eighth, we having been relieved, began the arduous march back toward Le Claon, and on November the eleventh were between Chatel Chehery and Le Claon; when the glorious news reached us that the Armistice had been signed. One long ringing cheer traveled along the column and that was all that was heard from our boys who had now become veterans. We could hardly believe the news and even though it was official, it was hard to make it soak through our heads. Our weary feet became lightened with the thought that the war was over, and we marched into Le Claon that evening with heads high and thoughts of home across the sea. That night we had a great celebration, the band played «pop goes the weasel» to remind us of our old camp Lee days, and we gathered all pyrotechnics available and turned it into a Fourth of July celebration. It was understood now by all of us, that the war was really over, and we had a heart felt pride in ourselves, and in our regiment; that we had individually and collectively done our bit.

CHAPTER IX

MARCH TO 15th TRAINING AREA AND LATER MOVE TO LE MANS AREA IN PREPARATION FOR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES

The regiment was partly billeted in houses, while some of the men were bivouaced in put tents, and the weather now was becoming quite crisp. The men's endurance was unlimited though, and all of our spirits were so high with the glad news that little thought was given to comforts. We remained in this area until the eighteenth of November and during the time, football and various other athletic sports were indulged in. Several memorable incidents were taken part in, and our first Sunday after the armistice the whole regiment was assembled and thanksgiving and prayers were offered for the successful conclusion of hostilities. The names of all the men killed in action were read to the assemblage by the Regimental Commander, after which the band played « The Star Spangled Banner » and the battalions marched back to their billets.

The following is a true copy of General Orders Nº 18 Headquarters, Eightieth Division, thirtieth of October 1918, which fits in appropriately at this setting of the stage. It cites our Regimental Commander and shows the appreciation and value of his service by the Division Commander :

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTIETH DIVISION

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

GENERAL ORDERS No. 18. France, 30 october.

1. It is not within the power of the Division Commander to make awards for valor on the field of battle, other than through recommendations to higher authority, nor is it construed that commendation is due for the performance of normal duties, however high the standard of requirement, for every officer and every man in the 80th Division must do his duty, and does — or goes.

It is his desire, however, to officially express his high appreciation of exceptional services rendered, and it gives him great pleasure to honorably mention :

« Lieutenant Colonel Charles Keller, 317th Infantry, for the courage, poise, and soldierly qualities, which enabled him to take over command of his regiment and reorganize it, under fire, after the execution of two unsuccessful attacks ; and which made possible the taking and holding of the Bois des Ogons. »

The thanks of the Division Commander are also due every officer and every man who has done his full duty, and especially to those who have performed acts of personal valor, entitling them to consideration for distinguished service.

The names of those so distinguished may not be made public, but they are know to their comrades in arms, and in due time will receive the reward merited.

What you have already accomplished is well known to your relatives and friends at home, and they are proud of your successes.

What you shall accomplish in the future, depends only upon the demands which shall be made upon you.

You have had experience in action, the results of which you will apply in future operations. You are better clothed, better fed, better equipped, than ever before, and your spirit is invincible.

The 80th Division always moves forward.

By command of Major General Cronkhite:
W.-H. Waldron,
Colonel, General Staff,
Chief of Staff.

Official :
Charles M. Jones,
Major A. G. D.
Adjutant.

The above goes to show the pride and esteem the Division Commander had in his organization, and the following which is a true copy of General Order nº 19, Headquarters Eightieth Division, November the eleventh, 1918, only emphasizes this pride not only of the Division Commander but of the First Army and First Corps Commanders in this division :

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTIETH DIVISION

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

GENERAL ORDER No. 19. France, 11th november 1918

To the Members of the 80th Division

The 80th Division only moves FORWARD.

It not only moves forward against the *Enemy*, but it moves forward in the estimation of all who are capable of judging its courage, its fighting and its manly qualities.

In the operations for the period November 1st-5th, the Division moved forward fifteen and five eight miles in an air line.

It always led.

It captured two Huns for every man wounded.

It captured one machine gun for every man wounded.

It captured one cannon for every ten men wounded, besides large quantities of munitions and other stores.

It accomplished these results, of vast importance to the success of the general operation, with a far smaller percentage of casualties than any other Division engaged.

It has learned by hard training and experience.

The appreciation of the Corps and Army Commanders is expressed in the following :

Telegram from the Commanding General, First Army :

« The Army Commander desires that you inform the Commander of the 80th Division of the Army Commander's appreciation of his excellent work during the battle of today. He desires that you have this information sent to all organizations of that Division as far as may be practicable this night. He fully realizes the striking blow your Division has delivered to the enemy this date. »

Telegram from the Commanding General First Army Corps :

« The Corps Commander is particularly pleased with the persistent, intelligent work accomplished by your Division today. He is further desirous that this congratulation reach General Lloyd M. Brett, commanding your Brigade, which has borne the brunt of the burden. »

Letter from the Commanding General, First Army Corps :

« The Corps Commander desires that you be informed and that those under your command be informed that in addition to other well deserved commendations received from the Army Commander and the Corps Commander, he wishes to express his particular gratification and appreciation of the work of your Division from the time it has entered under his command. »

It is necessarily a great honor to be allowed to command an organization which earns such commendation.

It is likewise a great honor to belong to such an organization.

I do not know what the future has in store for us.

If it be war, we must and shall sustain our honor and our reputation by giving our best to complete the salvation of our Country.

If it be peace, we must and shall maintain our reputation and the honor of our Division and the Army, as soldiers of the greatest country on earth, and as right-minded, self respecting men.

The 80th Division only moves FORWARD.

A. Cronkhite,
Major General.

It has been reiterated once or twice, that words can not express the praise due our gallant troops, therefore we feel not the slightest hesitancy in publishing these different citations; which go to show in truth the actualities performed by troops of this division. The following is a true copy of a memorandum from Division Headquarters dated seventh of October 1918 : —

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTIETH DIVISION

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

7 th october 1918.

To the Officers and Men of the 159th Brigade

The Division Commander wishes to express his great appreciation of the highly important successes gained by General Jamerson's 159th Brigade, and Major Montague's attached Battalion of the 319th Infantry.

Continually under effective artillery fire on your flank, as well as machine gun fire from your front and flanks, you nevertheless returned again and again to the attack, until your objective was gained and held.

Your success has earned the repeated congratulations of your Corps Commander as well as the thanks of your Country.

Adelbert Cronkhite,
Major-General, Commanding.

The following indorsement is from the Brigade Commander showing his high appreciation of the splendid work accomplished by the entire Brigade :

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTIETH DIVISION

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

6th october 2918.

The Brigade Commander desires to add to the above his expression of appreciation of the work accomplished by the Brigade and Major Montague's Battalion, 319th Infantry, during the three days fight for the Bois des Ogons, and his pride in the command of an organization possessed of that iron will and determination which alone could win success in the face of such odds.

G.-H. JAMERSON,
Brigadier General, Commanding.

Every member of this regiment should feel a just pride in having belonged to an organization that brought forth such commendations as; these just printed. It is very evident that all members do feel this pride, for it is shown in the splendid discipline and the high standard which has been maintained throughout its great adventures. One could write on and on about the glorious deeds achcived by this organization, but the time has come for us to move on another stage of our toilsome journey.

On the morning of the eighteenth of November, the regiment moved out by battalions enroute for the 15th Training Area. The weather was fair and the roads were exceedingly good, making the conditions ideal for such a movement. We can not go into the details of every camp, or stop, in staging during this long hard march, but the following are the names of the different towns that the regiment passed through which terminated with a distance covered of two hundred twenty-one kilometers. The towns were : — Triacourt, Auzecourt, Robert Espagne, Hoericourt, Laneuville, Nully, Jaucourt, Beurey, Recey Haute Rive, arriving in the 15th Area on the night of November the twenty-ninth. The regiment was pretty widely separated, being assigned to the following towns : — Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Company in Jully, Les Forges, First Battalion Le Maine, Le Loge and Jully, Second Battalion Fontaines and Planay and the Third Battalion Savoisy and Etais. The Machine Gun Company was located in Cestre and the Supply Company in La Folie.

We remained in this area a long four months drilling and maneuvering. Toward the latter stages of this period Post Schools and athletics were given more time, and the drill period was cut down to four hours a day. Time passed pretty slowly, and the long winter nights dragged heavily for the first two months. As the days and weeks went by, a little feeling of spring began to creep into our bones, and we knew that it couldn't be long then until we would be moving toward the coast. Finally along about the fifteenth of March instructions were received that the division would pass to the S. O. S. on March the twentieth. This meant that preparations for return to the United States would begin without delay. It was hard to believe, that we were really going home after waiting so long, but nevertheless it was so, and the preparations began.

When we passed from command of the First Army Corps Major General Wright commended the division very highly in General Orders nº 12, Headquarters First Army Corps, eighteenth of March 1919, and the following is a true copy of these orders : —

HEADQUARTERS FIRST ARMY CORPS

AMERICAN E. F.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 12. 18 March 1919.

1. The 80th Division, having been instructed to prepare for return to the United States, will pass from the command of this Army Corps on 20th March, 1919.

2. The 80th Division arrived in France about June 5, 1918. This Division trained with the British Troops and was on active duty with them in the Artois sector near Arras in July. The Division was in reserve at the battle of St. Mihiel, except the 320th Infantry and 315th Machine Gun Battalion which took part in the operations of the 2nd French Colonial Corps. From September 26th to 29th, inclusive, the Division attacked at Bethincourt with the 3rd Corps and advanced 9 kilometers in 2 days. The Division was withdrawn from the line for five days and again attacked on October 4th at Nantillois. In 9 days of heavy fighting through the Bois des Ogons an advance of 4 kilometers was made. The Division was withdrawn from the line October 12th for re-equipment and replacements. The

Division moved forward on October 29th and 30th and re-entered the line St. Georges — St. Juvin.

3. The 80th Division passed under the orders of the 1st Corps on October 23rd in the Le Claon — Le Neufour area, west of the Argonne Forest. On November 1st the Division attacked as the right division of the 1st Corps and in 6 days advanced a depth of 24 kilometers. The Division was relieved from the line on November 6th, with its patrols on the west bank of the Meuse. From the 18th of November to December 1st, the Division marched 221 kilometers to the 15th Training Area at Ancy-le-Franc. The artillery of the Division was part of the time detached from the Division and was in action at all times from September 26th to November 11th. The Division has remained in the 15th Training Area until its present order to prepare for embarkation to the United States.

4. The 80th Division was given difficult tasks on the front line and in accomplishing them made a splendid record. The Corps Commander desires particularly to express his appreciation for the soldierly acheivments of this division during the time it served with the 1st Army Corps. After returning to the Training Area where living conditions were not easy and often difficult, the spirit of the division has been excellent and has been manifest at all times. The Division leaves on the first part of its journey with the Corps Commander's congratulations for its excellent record and his wishes for a speedy return to the United States and a successful future.

By command of Major General Wright :
W.-M. Fassett,
Chief of Staff.

Official :
H. M. Nelly,
Li-Colonel, A. G. D.
Adjutant.

On April the third 1919 the regiment entrained for Le Mans at Nuits-Ravieres, and on leaving the area the following proclamation was issued by the Mayor of Fontaines les Seches, which will ever reflect credit upon the members of the 317th Infantry. The following is a true copy of this proclamation : —

Fontaines-les-Seches, 31 March 1919.

To the 317th Infantry

The mayor being the interpreter of the inhabitants of Fontaines les Seches wishes to congratulate and thank the officers and soldiers who have been amongst us for the last four months, for their good behavior, their honesty and courtesy and the excellent « souvenir » they all shall leave us.

It is with pleasure the entire population of this village extends to you their good wishes for a happy return to your own families.

In the name of us all « Bon Voyage », « Au revoir » to our friends and allies.

(signed) Motenot,
Major of Fontaines.

The trip was made without incident, and the regiment arrived in the area around Ecommoy and Mayet on the night of the fourth and fifth of April. Without a question this trip was the most comfortable one the men have ever had. Straw was provided for the cars which enabled them to sleep warmly by using their two blankets. On detraining hot chocolate was served by the Y. M. C. A. before starting the march to the various towns that had been allotted. We are again pretty widely separated, being located in the following towns : Regimental Headquarters, Headquarters Company and First Battalion in Yvré le Polin, the Second Battalion with Companies « E », « F », «G » in Requeil and Company « H » in Chateau L'Hermitage, the Third Battalion in Mansigne and Machine Gun and Supply Company in St. Biez en Belin.

Every officer and man has his time completely taken up now, with preparations for embarkation to the United States. The same high standard of discipline and efficiency prevails throughout, and the preparations mentioned above cannot but come to a successful conclusion. The next chapter will end this rather long history, but it is felt that no words have been wasted in compiling the deeds so gloriously executed by the members of this gallant regiment.

On the twenty-sixth of March the entire Division had passed in review before General Pershing in a down pour of rain, but even though the weather was inclement the showing made was wonderful. The Commander in Chief declared that he was proud of the division and its splendid record wishing us God Speed and a happy return to our homes and families.

CHAPTER X

HOMEWARD BOUND

Now that the time has come to go home, let every officer and man of this regiment fully realize, and be proud of the great accomplishments of this organization. There is no member of this regiment who will go back to the states, with anything but a feeling of pride that he has done his bit, and that this bit has been done in connection with such a regiment. Examine its records, they speak for themselves, so don't join the vast gang of boastful heroes. You don't have to for your records as mentioned above tell the story.

When you get back in civilian life remember, the glorious deeds of your regiment on the bloody fields of France, and always be quick to defend it, either by word or action. You have suffered many hardships which will ever be unknown, except to comrades in arms, and you have borne them with the grace and endurance only becoming a true soldier. Remember not to criticise the army when you get back in civilian life, but make yourself think of the vast and prodigous job, that our government saw fit to undertake.

The days will come and have come when your family and country are more than proud of your wonderous deeds, and this fact alone should make a thrill creep up and down your spine. Think of the fight at Nantillois, and the push through the Argonne Forrest, when this regiment alone advanced nineteen of the twenty-four kilometers made by the entire divission. You should revel in these deeds, and protect them through the ages to come, and keep the beacon star shining that ever led us on.

Now that the war is over let us go back to the land, where the blue peaks rise from the planes and the air is full of

sunshine. Remember that these peaks that enriched us with our insignia are sacred to us, so be ever ready to defend them against any manner of foe. Be better men when you go back and work for the salvation of your country, for it deserves everything that you can give it.

The Commanding Officer of the regiment wishes to express his unbounded appreciation and heart felt pride to all the officers and men of the regiment, in its efficient and glorious record. He wishes you every success and God Speed on your return to civilian life. Your accomplishments have been of the highest character, and deserved of the various commendations you have brought upon yourselves. He feels that he can add nothing to the splendid praise which has been bestowed upon you; from the beginning, to the end of your active service.

END

APPENDIX

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTIETH DIVISION

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

France, 26 March 1919.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 2

2. The Commander-in-Chief, in the name of the President, has awarded the Distinguished Service Medal to the following named officers of this Division for the acts of exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services described after their names :

BRETT, Lloyd M., Brigadier General, U. S. Army.

No. 400 — *KELLER, Charles, Colonel, 317th Infantry.*

He took command of a regiment at a critical moment, after two unsuccessful assaults had been made by the Brigade. He reorganized the regiment under fire and made possible the taking and holding of the Bois des Ogons, the reby displaying the highest order of leadership and exhibiting the masterful qualities of a commander.

By command of Major General Sturgis :

W.-H. WALDRON,
Colonel, General Staff,
Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTIETH DIVISION

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

France, 26 December 1918.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 20

1. The Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, in the name of the President of the United States, has

awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to the following named officers and men of this Division for the acts of extraordinary heroism described after their names :

No. 1250 — *1st Lieutenant William B. ARRANTS, M. C., 317th Infantry.*

For repeated acts of extraordinary heroism in action in the Bois de la Cote Lemont, France, 28 September 1918, and near Nantillois, France, 5 October 1918.

Lieutenant Arrants with his battalion aid unit accompanied his battalion into action in the Bois de la Cote Lemont and promptly opened an aid station within 100 yards of the front line, where he worked all night under continuous fire, giving aid to the wounded. When there was a shortage of stretcher bearers, he assisted in bringing in the wounded. Under intense fire he undertook to locate the ambulance dressing station and personally directed the evacuation of wounded to it. In the attack from the Bois de Faye, 5 October, he again went with the attacking troops and opened a first aid station in an old cellar with no cover. Under an intense barrage of shrapnel and high explosive he performed the most devoted service in attending the wounded, working continuously for nine hours until after his unit had been ordered to retire.

No. 2051 — *Sergeant Manley BRADLEY* (1817652), *Company D, 317th Infantry.*

For extraordinary heroism in action near Nantillois, France, 5 October 1918.

Sergeant Bradley was wounded in the head while leading his platoon across a valley swept by machine gun fire, but he continued to lead his men on to their objective, refusing to report to the dressing station until he was ordered to do so.

No. 1885 — *Sergeant James T. Jenkins* (1818428), *Company G, 317th Infantry.*

For extraordinary heroism in action near Nantillois, France, 5 October 1918.

Patrolling by himself in front of the line, Sergeant Jenkins came upon a machine gun emplacement manned by a German officer and three men. He wounded the officer and one soldier by rifle fire, captured the other two men and took them with the machine gun to the rear.

No. 1889 — *Corporal John N. BERG* (2472741), *Company C, 317th Infantry.*

For extraordinary heroism in action near Sommauthe, France, 4 November 1918.

Corporal Berg led his squad under heavy machine gun fire in an attack on a machine gun nest, capturing two machine guns, killing the gunners and driving off the remainder of the crews. With his squad he held the position for one hour until the arrival of the rest of his company.

No. 1890. — *Private Edward CHANEY* (1817402), *Company C, 317th Infantry.*

For extraordinary heroism in action near Sommauthe, France, 4 November 1918.

Private Chaney crawled in front of the line under heavy machine gun fire and carried a wounded soldier to safety.

In the absence of the Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, who desired to present the crosses but has expressed his regrets on his inability to do so, the Division Commander will personally present the crosses at LES FORGES, Department of the Yonne, on December 27th, 1918.

By command of Major General Sturgis :
EDMUND A. BUCHANAN,
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry,
Acting Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTIETH DIVISION

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

France, 26 March 1919.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 2

3. The Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, in the name of the President of the United States, has awarded the Silver Bands, authorized by paragraph 244, Army Regulations, and General Orders 41, c. s., G. H. Q., American E. F., to the organizations listed below for battle participations during the war with Germany :

(1) *Picardy Sector, France,* 23 *July*-18 *August,* 1918.

317th Infantry Regiment.
318th Infantry Regiment.
319th Infantry Regiment.
320th Infantry Regiment.
305th Engineer Regiment.
313th Machine Gun Battalion.
314th Machine Gun Battalion.
315th Machine Gun Battalion.
305th Field Signal Battalion.

(2) *Meuse-Argonne Offensive, France,* 26 *September*-29 *September,* 1918.

317th Infantry Regiment.
319th Infantry Regiment.
320th Infantry Regiment.
305th Engineer Regiment.
313th Machine Gun Battalion.
314th Machine Gun Battalion.
315th Machine Gun Battalion.
305th Field Signal Battalion.

(3) *Meuse-Argonne Offensive, France,* 26 *September*-30 *September,* 1918.

318th Infantry Regiment.

(4) *Meuse-Argonne Offensive, France,* 4 *October*-12 *October,* 1918.

Same as in one (1).

(5) *Meuse-Argonne Offensive, France,* 1 *November*-6 *November,* 1918.

Same as in one (1).

(6) *Meuse-Argonne Offensive, France,* 26 *September*-11 *November,* 1918.

313th Field Artillery Regiment.
314th Field Artillery Regiment.
315th Field Artillery Regiment.

In lieu of the Silver Bands, which will be supplied later by the Adjutant General of the Army, the Commander-in-Chief will present ribbons to the above mentioned organizations at Division Review and Inspection to be held on March 26, 1919.

By command of Major General Sturgis :
W.-H. WALDRON,
Colonel, General Staff,
Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS 317th INFANTRY

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES (FRANCE)

LIST OF MEN WHO DIED IN FRANCE

1. Pvt. Boggs, Clarence H. 2468236 Co. B. (Gunshot wound self inflicted).
2. Corp. Payne, Maurice L. 1817637 Co. D.
3. Sgt. Stultz, Fred S. 1817108 Co. B.
4. Pvt. Adams, Lee 1817141 Co. B.
5. Pvt. Sayres, David L. 1818795 Co. H.
6. Pvt. Mullaney, Patrick E. 2470344 Co. H.
7. Corp. Sentell, Henry G. 1818171 Co. F.
8. Pvt. Fitzgerald, James R. 2664977 Co. G.
9. Pvt. Raquinta, Francesco 2665205 Co. K.
10. Wag. Coleman, Marshall H. 1816628 Sup. Co. (Bayonet Stabb-by American Soldier).
11. Pvt. Carter, Millard D. 2471864 Co. H.
12. Pvt. Weddel, Edgar 1818826 Co. H.
13. Pvt. Johnson, Walter P. 2472720 Co. H.
14. Pvt. Jenkins, Azell M. 2471844 Co. F.
15. Pvt. Argioroplos, James J. 2664932 Co. F.
16. Corp. Rose, Wilbur McK. 1819469 Co. L.
17. Pvt. Stewart, Charlie A. 2471887 Co. M.
18. Pvt. Latimer, Charles Hurst 1817952 Co. E. (Absess of Brain-Died in British Hosp.)
19. Pvt. 1/c Farmer, John A. 1817171 Co. B.
20. Pvt. Sosnick, Jake 1849863 Co. L.
21. Pvt. 1/c Bailey, Courtney, B. 1819531 Co. L.
22. Corp. Foster, Henry L. 1819513 Co. L.
23. Bug. Lucas, Andrew J. 1819563 Co. L.
24. Pvt. 1/c Ward, Velpo D. 1819622 Co. L.
25. Pvt. 1/c Huether, Paul S. 2665638 Co. L.
26. Pvt. Klein, Charles L. 2468609 Co. L.
27. Pvt. 1/c Goad, Robert 1817995 Hq. Co.
28. Pvt. 1/c Williams, John 1819870 Co. M.
29. Pvt. Baker, Louis F. 2468616 Co. C.
30. Ist Lt. Page, George R. Co. B.
31. Wag. Priode, Fred H. 1816701 Sup. Co.
32. Wag. Corum, John H. 1816630 Sup. Co.
33. Pvt. Jeffries, Addis W. 1835445 Co. I.
34. Pvt. 1/c Birchehead 1818979 Co. I.
35. Pvt. 1/c Morris, Herbert W. 1819041 Co. I.

36. Corp. Neel, Henry C. 1819034 Co. I.
37. Pvt. Henley, George T. 1849513 Co. I.
38. Mec. Marsh, Earl M. 1816229 Hq. Co.
39. Corp. Martin, William L. 1819050 Hq. Co.
40. Pvt. 1/c Cain, Frank 1817976 Co. E.
41. Pvt. Davis, Nalvin T. 1818169 Co. F.
42. 2nd Lt. O'Leary, Henry A. Co. G.
43. Pvt. Collins, Frank B. 1819801 Co. M.
44. Pvt. Konik, Nichael J. 2470855 Co. M.
45. Pvt. Buchanan, Emette T. 1817153 Co. B.
46. Corp. Brawley, John M. 2471454 Co. B.
47. Corp. Williams, Rakph E. 1817094 Co. B.
48. Pvt. Robinson, Earle W. 2471582 Co. C.
49. Pvt. Eanes, Robert C. 2467409 Co. C.
50. Pvt. Goings, Monterville 1817421 Co. C.
51. Corp. Harrison, Daniel Q. 1817429 Co. C.
52. Pvt. Craig, George E. 2467033 Co. D.
53. Roberts, William A. 1849721 Co. D.
54. Pvt. Killen, Alexander 1819554 Co. L.
55. Pvt. 1/c Jennings; Britain 1819560 Co. L.
56. Pvt. Grishaber, Joe J. 2471525 Gq. Co.
57. Pvt. Hayes, John R. 1849964 Hq. Co.
58. Pvt. Jefferson, John D. 1816197 Hq. Co.
59. Pvt. Lester, Clyde L. 2471804 Hq. Co.
60. Pvt. Walker, Julian C. 1849680 Hq. Co.
61. Mech Oakes, Frank H. 1818184 Co. F.
62. Pvt. Harris, William E. 2471860 Co. F.
63. Pvt. Daniel, Peter 1818318 Co. F.
64. Pvt. 1/c Seay, Bert E. 2471910 Co. F.
65. Pvt. 1/c Snyder, James B. 1818204 Co. F.
66. Bug. Davidson, Elbert L. 1816881 Co. A.
67. Pvt. 1/c Hickman, Thomas H. 1816899 Co. A.
68. Pvt. Harrison, Thomas P. 1816895 Co. A.
69. Corp. Dwiers, Charlie H. 1816885 Co. A.
70. Pvt. 1/c Ratcliffe, Sherry W. 1816933 Co. A.
71. Pvt. Barnitowski, Waldex 2472558 Co. A.
72. Pvt. Hess, Walter 2707955 Co. D.
73. Corp. Reynolds, Byron 1817727 Co. D.
74. Pvt. 1/c Yancy, Arthur L. 1817759 Co. D.
75. Pvt. Benjamin, Simon 2467297 Co. D.
76. Pvt. Hevener, James R. 1817693 Co. D.
77. Pvt. 1/c Riggins, Julian Dewitt 1817729 Co. D.
78. Pvt. 1/c Steele, Robert O. 2471573 Co. D.
79. Corp. Wright, Richard W. 1817758 Co. D.
80. Corp. Chisholm, George A. 1817659 Co. D.
81. Bug. Nicholas, William R. 1817716 Co. D.
82. Mech. Davidson, William T. 1817642 Co. D.

83. Pvt. Mc Garry, John D. 2472669 Co. H.
84. Corp. Dunlap, George C. 1818448 Co. G.
85. Pvt. 1/c Lancaster, Claude S. 1818506 Co. G.
86. Pvt. 1/c Kelley, Mordiaunt B. 2467229 Co. I.
87. Pvt. Hart, Robert C. 2467537 Co. I.
88. Pvt. Meade, Thos. B. 1819358 Co. K.
89. Pvt. Alesci, Joe 2471969 Co. K.
90. Pvt. Cook, James D. 2472013 Co. K.
91. Pvt. 1/c Rhoten, Rufus 1819338 Co. K.
92. Pvt. Carter, Henry W. 2468164 Co. K.
93. Pvt. Watts, John W. 2468410 Co..
94. Pvt. Davis, Thomas W. 2471661 Co. K.
95. Pvt. Agostine, Joseph D. 2707804 Co. K.
96. Corp. Albert, James E. 1819246 Co. K.
97. Corp. Holland, Lloyd 1819226 Co. K.
98. Sgt. Harper, Leon A. 1819529 Co. L.
99. Pvt. Steel, Harry L. 2471662 Co. L.
100. Pvt. 1/c Yeatts, Devi H. 1819628 Co. L.
101. Corp. Moon, Marvin A. 1819573 Co. L.
102. Pvt. Bryant, Jimmy 1849678 Co. K.
103. Pvt. 1/c Burton, Miller T. 2467681 Co. H.
104. Ist Lt. Fleming, Saunders Co. M. (Accidental discharge of pistol).
105. Corp. Jones, Rufus R. 1817361 Co. C.
106. Pvt. Hall, James L. 2467408 Co. C.
107. Pvt. 1/c Salyer, William H. 2467759 Co. A.
108. Sgt. Fowler, Ivon H. 1819514 Co. L.
109. Pvt. 1/c Fanning, Charles Otto 1836370 Co. L.
110. Pvt. Milby, Robert F. 2467536 Co. I.
111. Capt. Ancarrow, Newton R, Co. A.
112. Ist Lt. Dugan, Daniel A. Jr. Co. D.
113. Corp. Furry, Harry L. 1819294 Co. K.
114. Pvt. Dedrick, George H. 1849722 Co. A.
115. Pvt. Wesolowski, Jozef 2822117 Co. A.
116. Pvt. Anderson, Philip J. 3336569 Co. C.
117. Sgt. Crews, Clarence H. 2467532 Co. C.
118. Pvt. Berglin, John E. 3336382 Co. C.
119. Pvt. Carroll, Charles 1818722 Co. H.
120. Pvt. 1/c Wood, Sunderlan F. 1853576 Co. G.
121. Pvt. Raisor, Franklin F. 2472770 Co. L.
122. Pvt. Browghman, Carl H. 2467509 Co. C.
123. Pvt. Gray, John W. 2664588 Co. C.
124. Pvt. Meade, Henry H. 1817179 Co. B.
125. Pvt. Lindstrom, Carl A. 3341336 Co. B.
126. Pvt. Kleczka, Casimir A. 2833902 Co. B.
127. Pvt. Dodd, Mc Kinley 1851473 Co. D.
128. Pvt. Abood, Steve 2083967 Co. C.

129. Pvt. Scott, Claude S. 1817737 Co. D.
130. Pvt. Strand, John B. 2079588 Co. K.
131. Pvt. Perkins, James 1819331 Co. K. (Died Hospital — Lobar Pneumonia).
132. Wag. Loving, Ethelbert T. 1814665 Sup. Co. (Died Hospital — disease).
133. Pvt. Daley, Elmo A. 2321371 Co. C. (Died in Hospital — Lobar Pneumonia).
134. Pvt. Garin, Edward J. 3086207 Co. F. Accidental drowning.
135. Pvt. Carter, Grover C. 3999325 Co. H. (Died in Hospital — acute Pleurisy).
136. Pvt. Peters, Edward 1284415 Co. A. (Died in Hospital — Pneumonia).
137. Sup. Sgt. Brown, Alexander T. 1818693 Co. H. (Died in Hospital — Pneumonia).
138. Corp. Thompson, Prentis G. 1849733 Hq. Co. (Died in Hospital — Pneumonia).
139. Pvt. Tossi, David 2471656 Co. D. (Died in Hospital — Disease).

Tours. — Imprimerie Deslis Frères et Cie.

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